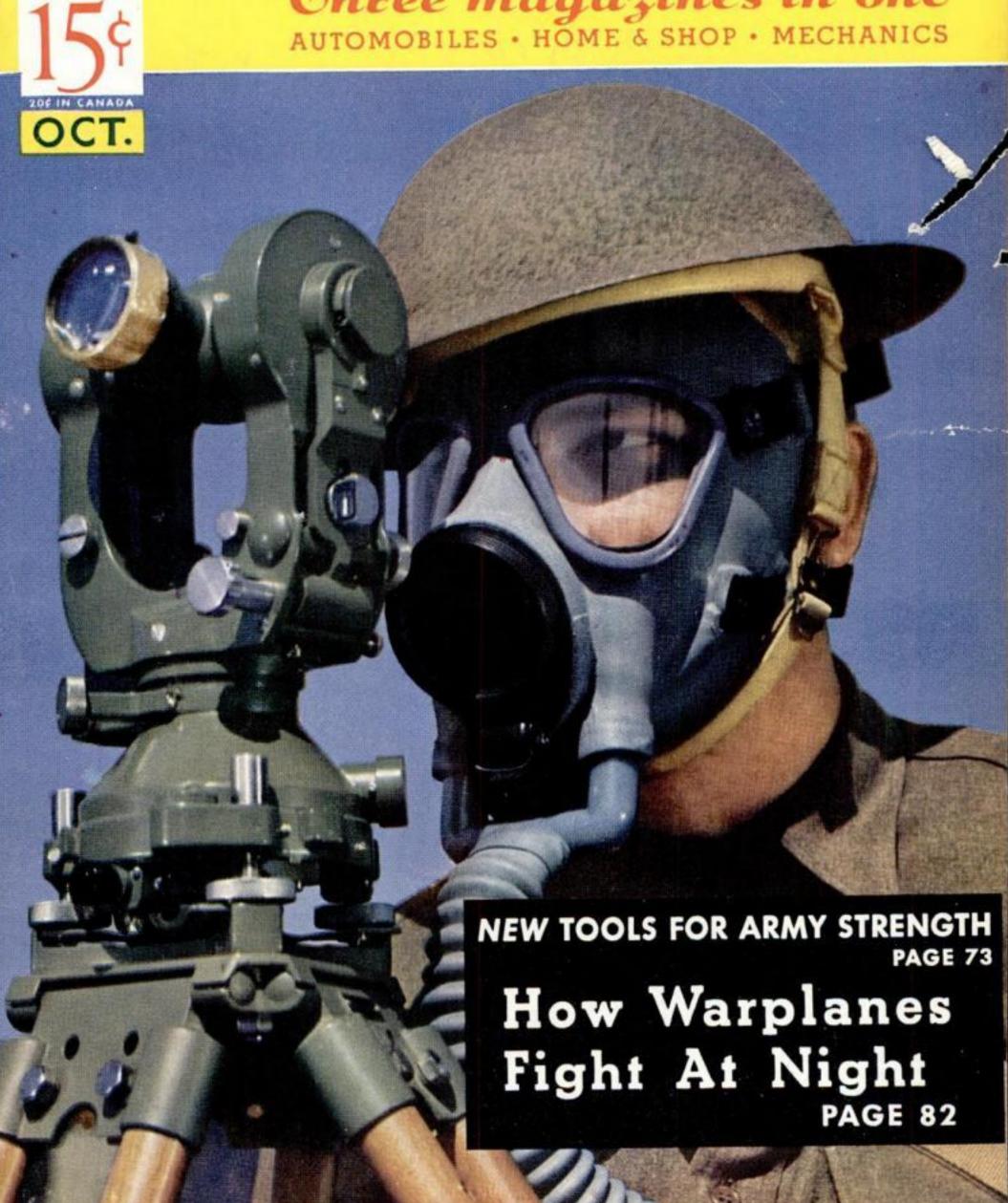
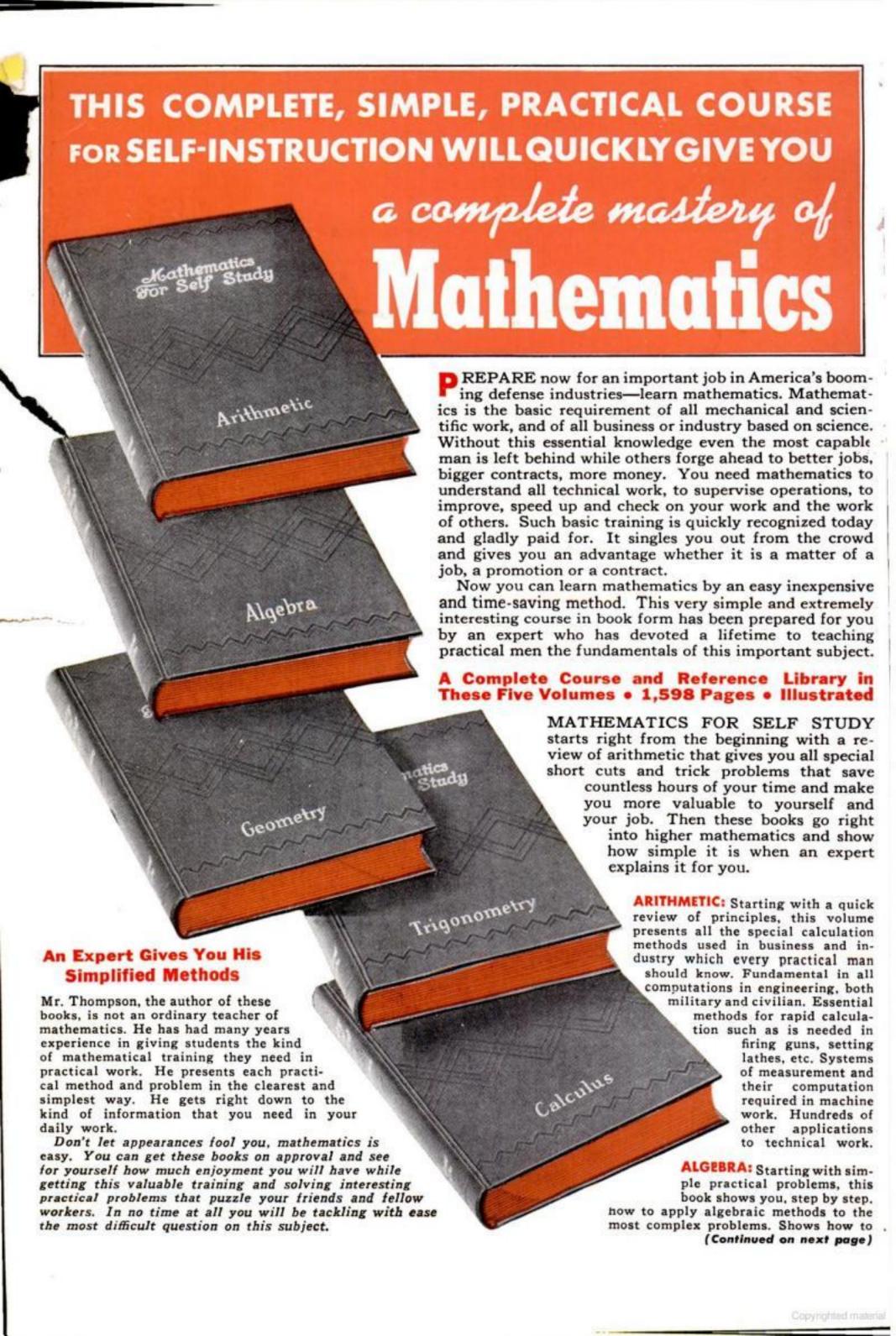
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THE NEWS PICTURE MAGAZINE OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

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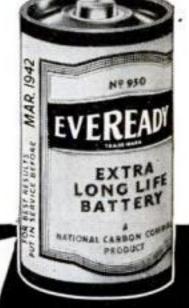




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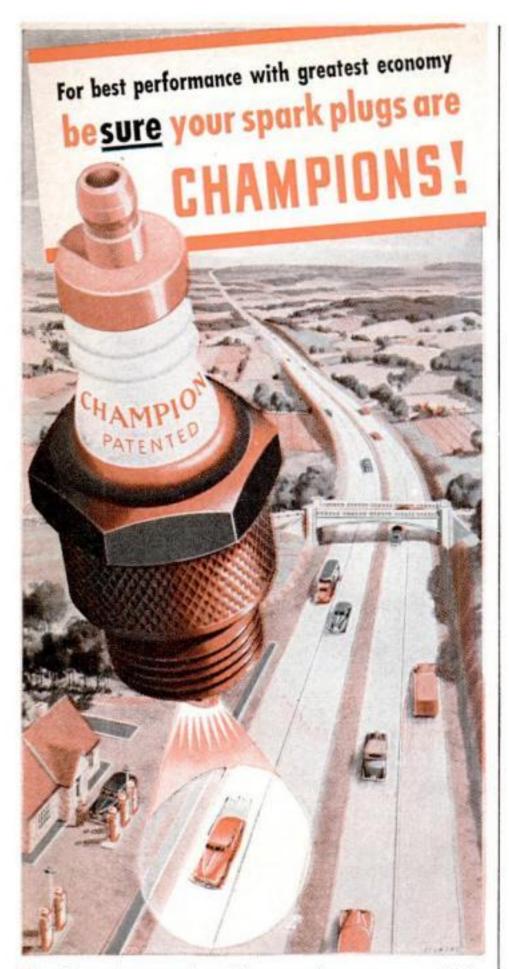


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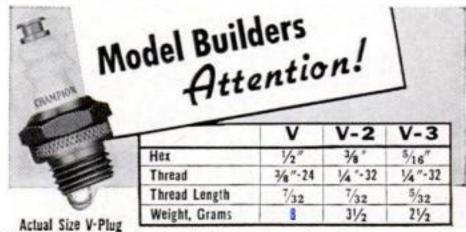
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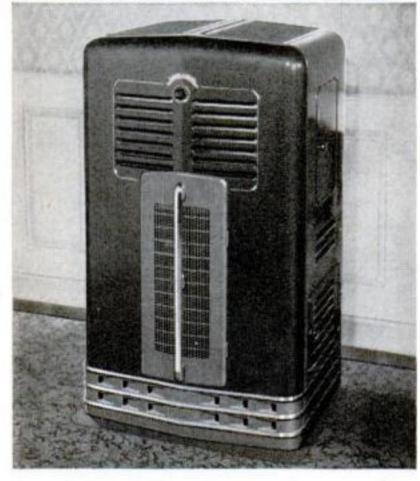
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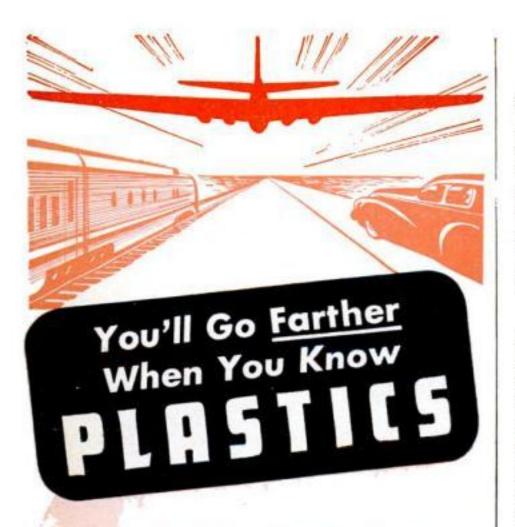
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WOOD plays a vital part in the defense program, and the scientists of the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory are working night and day to find new uses for this important material and to adapt it better to the jobs it has already. Hickman Powell tells how a laboratory-tailored crate for baby bombs is saving sailors' lives on the North Atlantic, how new drying methods make better lumber for military uses.

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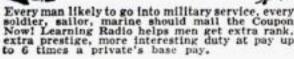
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NEW LIQUID COAL, mixed with 60 percent oil, makes a hotter fire than coal or oil alone. It promises an appreciable increase in the cruising range of ships, and it reduces fire risks because it can be stored under a water seal and may be extinguished by water. Dr. Walter M. Fuchs, professor of fuel technology at Pennsylvania State College, developed the new process of dissolving coal more completely than before. Bituminous coal is treated with acids to extract mineral matter and ash, and then dissolved in furfural, a common chemical available from farm waste such as corncobs and bran. Manufacturers of resins and plastics may also utilize the new liquid, whose patent has been assigned to the Pennsylvania Research Corporation, an affiliate of the college.

new Perker

MERICAN SMOKERS may soon be puffing on more pipes made of domestic materials and fewer imported products because of the war. A pipe factory at Boone, North Carolina, is working two shifts a day turning out pipe blocks of ivy, laurel, and rhododendron to replace briarwood formerly imported from France, Italy, and Algiers. And a Downs, Kans., inventor, has patented a method of making meerschaum, formerly imported from Asia Minor, with domestic magnesium silicate and the whites of eggs.

NTIL RECENTLY, olive oil was just about the only substance considered acceptable for lubricating woolen fibers while they were being woven into fabrics. Then the European wars knocked holes in the olive-oil supply, and the woolen manufacturers began searching for a substitute. Now they have found that a mixture of mineral and coconut oils is even better. To make the story better, it costs the industry \$200,000 a year less.

OLUTIONS OF PECTIN, the old stand-by for jelly making, have been injected into the veins in place of blood or blood plasma in cases of shock and hemorrhage, with good results, according to doctors at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit. Such solutions are naturally easier to prepare and store than blood or plasma, and may prove the answer to the demand for large supplies of a solution that can be used for military purposes.

GLOWING SKIES, which have often clouded the plates of photographers working at night, may be caused by activity of the earth's magnetic field as well as by stars or moonlight, according to reports from California University's Lick Observatory. With this knowledge, it may be possible to pick good nights for astronomical picture taking by keeping tabs on the magnetic field to determine what nights will glow the least.



## Will You Be Clerk or Manager Ten Years from Now?

OURELY, this could never happen to me." you say— "that I should be sitting at the same desk—be doing the same work—for ten straight years!'

But wait a minute-

Exactly that same thing has happened to thousands upon thousands of men. It has probably happened to men right in the company you now are working for. And —unless you fit yourself for a better job—there is a very good chance that it may happen to you!

Unthinkable? That's what J. N. Dixon of Columbus, Ohio, said to himself. Yet lack of training kept him

slaving away at low wages for a long time.

#### TRIPLES INCOME

Here is Mr. Dixon's own story—"Just after I returned from the war, one of your representatives found me plugging away at a bookkeeper's job in Marietta, Ohio. He performed a real service and explained to me the need of further training, and induced me to take the LaSalle training in Higher Accountancy. After a few months of study, I secured a position with the Trust Department of a National Bank. This was the stepping stone I needed to various responsible positions including handling of receiverships and other important duties. That quickly boosted my income several hundred percent."

#### ANOTHER AMAZING SUCCESS STORY

If you think Mr. Dixon's success story too unusual, read what J. H. Krouse of Memphis, Tennessee, says: "When I decided to take your training in Higher Accountancy, I was a clerk. Today I am Chief Consultant Accountant for the U.S. Engineer's Office in Memphis, Tenn. Whatever success or recognition I have had, I owe to your training. I have had no other specialized training along this line. Your method of teaching is not only instructive but highly engaging. I have observed other courses, but firmly believe LaSalle has the best to be had anywhere.

Another bit of evidence is Mr. R. P. Barthalow's experience. Mr. Barthalow is Chief of the Sales Tax Section of the Tax Commission of Ohio, a department which handles over \$50,000,000 a year. Mr. Barthalow attributes much of his success to LaSalle training.

#### SEND FOR These Two Books and Start Toward Bigger Success

Need you hear more before you investigate the opportunities in Accountancy?

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print more pictures and facts about the U. S. Navy—not just Navy flyers, but of the sailors aboard ship and ashore. Show all the modern improvements of the ships. I enjoyed the article "Submarines in War," and am looking forward to more of the same kind of material.—J. G., Somerville, Mass.

## Here's a Timely Reminder for Home Paper Hangers

IN YOUR excellent magazine I read with great interest Mr. Benjamin Nielsen's first article on wall-papering. Can't resist asking you to remind him to include in his next installment advice on avoiding that phase of the problem illustrated in the old story—where the craftsman's wife says, "Yes, it looks pretty nice, but what are those lumps?" To which the home paper hanger replies, "Gosh, I forgot to take down the pictures!"—A. S. C., Brooklyn, N. Y.

## Would Birds Hang Out a Sign to Mark their Nest?

A rew months ago, I made a bird-feeding platform half roofed over, with a weather-

vane arrangement to turn it and keep the platform on the lee-ward side as a protection from the wind. Using some waste space, I made two apartments for nesting. These are on opposite sides, and one of them has been pre-ëmpted by swallows. The birds evidently were confused by the



shifting around of their abode, but have now hung several strands of weeds extending from their particular entrance, apparently to mark it. Will some nature lover tell me if I am right in my conjecture?—D. C. B., Kirkland, Wash.

## An Article on Lubrication Would Please This Reader

ALTHOUGH I may have missed it, I haven't seen much if anything about auto lubrication

in your magazine. This is a large and important field. I think it would be a good idea to have an article covering types of oils and greases and answering questions such as whether oil is still good after use and whether it can be reconditioned. There are many facts about lubrication that require a lot of digging



and I am sure that many of your readers would thank you for the information.—R. H., Baltimore, Md.

## He Wants More Ship Models Like Captain McCann's

How about some more ship models of the kind the late Captain McCann used to design? I have built his Swallow and Alabama. More models of this sort, I am sure, would hit the spot with the other thousands of ship-model makers whose tools and skill have been rusting since his death three years ago. —D. S., New York City.

#### One Thing Leads to Another— Now It's Old Alarm Clocks

C. C. M., of Burlington, Vt., asks what to do with his shirt cardboards. In our house we use them in place of dustpans. A friend of mine has made simple models of boats out of cardboard, and I think model railroads and planes could also be made. I use the cardboards in photography as masks and



frames for films which I intend to use in a projector, if they are not too thick. I hope this helps C. C. M. Now will someone tell me what I can do with four broken alarm clocks, please?—E. J., Brooklyn, N. Y.



# Car Engineers prove AC Spark Plugs on hills that are 12 months long

You'll never drive your car so hard,—or so long. But car engineers do it, day and night. Why? To get for you—among other things—the spark plug that is most reliable, most efficient, most satisfactory.

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## The Artist Was Thinking About Something Else



IN YOUR August issue you seem to have adopted what is now the general usage for spelling "bulb," namely "BLUB." It appears on page 188, in the schematic diagram of the light-beam transmitter. We have jokingly used this term in the electrical line, but I never thought I

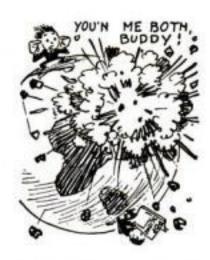
would see it in P.S.M.—L.A.W., New Haven, Conn.

#### He May Have Got the Fracture While Riding a Nightmare

As a lay instructor on first aid for the Red Cross, I was pleased to note that the fracture case you showed in your article "Motorizing the Medical Corps" had obligingly had his fracture while lying on a stretcher with a pillow under his head. Or so it would seem, because one of the first things we teach about fractures is: "Never move a fracture case until splints are applied." Since these beautifully trained Medical Corps men are in the act of applying a traction splint to the leg of the victim, it is to be assumed that the fracture took place in this very convenient position.—Mrs. M. F. F., Roswell, N. M.

## Hopes the War Will Cease —and Don't We All?

I have only recently begun reading your most interesting magazine, and am writing to tell you how much I appreciate the useful information printed by P.S.M. I shall be extremely sorry if the war causes importation of P.S.M. here to cease, so we'll just hope the war ceases



instead. In the meantime, thumbs up, P. S. M.!—H. K. S., Hamilton, New Zealand.

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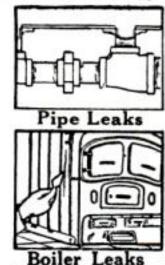
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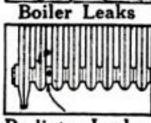
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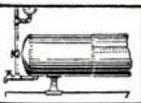








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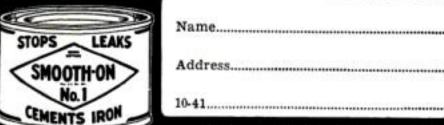
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## Everything Else Is Topsy-Turvy, So Why Not Shipbuilding?

If I knew more about boats and boat building, I probably wouldn't be writing this

letter to you. I live in a community where many small boats are built, and they are all built with the bottom side up. Why, I ask, couldn't this be done with ships—probably not with the largest, but at least with the medium-sized craft? My plan, take it for what it is worth, is this: Lay out the top



deck on the floor of a dry dock, and work up to the bottom. When the hull is completed, let into the dock enough water to make the ship sufficiently light to roll over.—J. S. H., Laconia, N. H.

## We Almost Had It Before It Happened

POP SCIENCE SEES ALL,



Science up to the minute—that's P.S.M.! In less than a week after the B-19, world's largest airplane, made its test flight, Pop. Sci. publishes pictures of it taxiing down the field. Can't ask for better service.—G. T., Conneaut, Ohio.

Our photos were taken during a taxiing test, some time before the flight test.—Ed.

#### That Floating Hockey Puck Wouldn't Be Cricket

PLEASE tell D. S. and P. M. to go jump in that hole in the ice. If they want to play juvenile hockey they can make their pucks from wood, but regular hockey calls for regulation pucks. "The puck shall be a vulcanized black rubber disk, uniformly one inch in thickness and three inches in diameter, weighing from 5½ to six ounces, and free from cuts and indentations." A simple calculation shows that a puck of this required size and weight would necessarily have a specific gravity greater than 1, and therefore would sink.—H. C., Columbus, Ohio.



MENDS: Tornbookpages, sheet music, maps, blue prints, window shades, transparent curtains.





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FIXES: Broken model planes, dolls and other toys, fly rods, tears in movie films.

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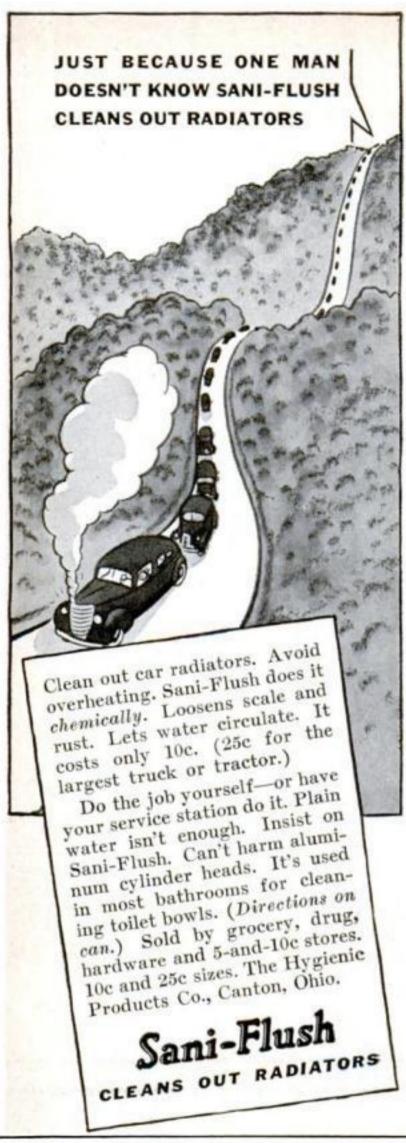
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## P.S.M. Started Him Off with a Metalworking Lathe

For the last 10 or 11 years I have been buying your magazine, and it is the finest publication of its kind that I have had the pleasure to read. Personally, I would like more articles in your Home Workshop section deal-

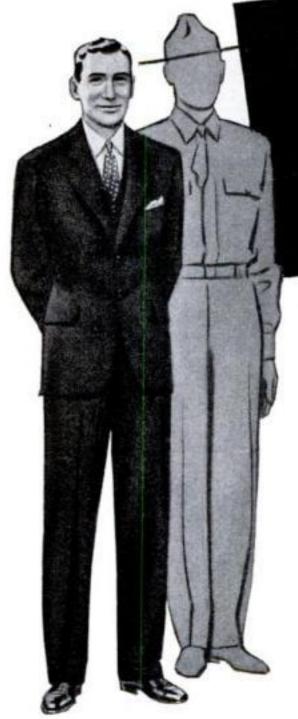


ing with the making of tools such as squares, micrometers, and center heads. I realize that one could not expect 100-percent accuracy from these homemade tools, but they are so infernally expensive to buy in this country—in fact unprocurable in many cases at the present time-that the work-

er with a small lathe is hard put to get hold of them. It was your publication that fired me with the desire to own a metalworking lathe, and since I have obtained one I get much assistance from your magazine for the hours of fun it gives me. I wish P.S.M. a long life.—E. C. W., Sydney, Australia.

### Fish Thrive on Freezing in Colorado Garden Pool

IN YOUR August issue you state that "fish can survive freezing temperatures in a garden pool 36 inches or more deep unless the water remains frozen to a depth of three or four inches for several days, in which case the fish will suffocate." I have a pool that is approximately five feet in diameter and about two feet deep. Our goldfish remain in the pool the entire year. In the fall, I put a two-by-four about five feet long in the pool and let it lie there, with about two feet extending over the tile bank. While our temperatures range from 95 above to 30 below, the pool has never suffered from the effects of freezing, and the fish in the spring always appear to be 30 percent larger than before the winter freeze. We do, however, make it a point to see that the fish are well fed before the final freeze (using regular oatmeal). This pool is frozen over from late November to late March and at times, without doubt, is frozen solid. Yet the fish are always alive in the spring.-F. C. H., Boulder, Colo.



# What about .C.S. students who are drafted?

MAYBE you've learned that only with proper training can you hope to get ahead on your job maybe you've often said, "Some day I'll take an I. C. S. Course, and really amount to something!"-but because of the draft, you've decided to put it off. Don't do it!

If you're drafted, you'll be encouraged to continue your I. C. S. studies — for the U. S. Army, like business and industry, needs trained men—and pays them well! Furthermore, you will have real training by the time your term of enlistment is over, and you'll be ready to step into a bigger, better-paying job than you have now.

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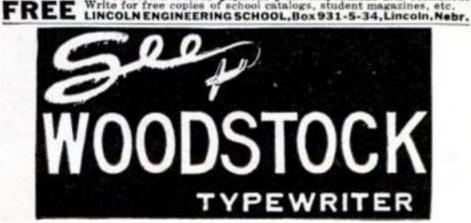
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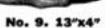


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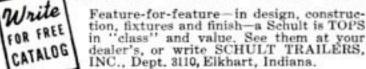
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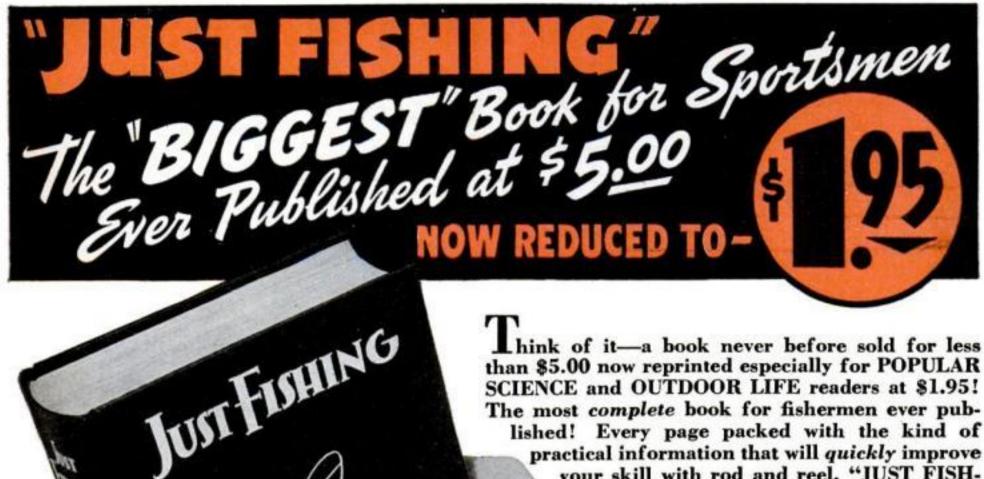
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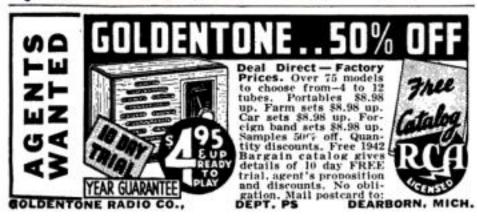




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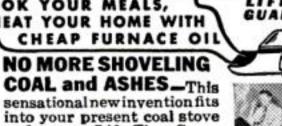
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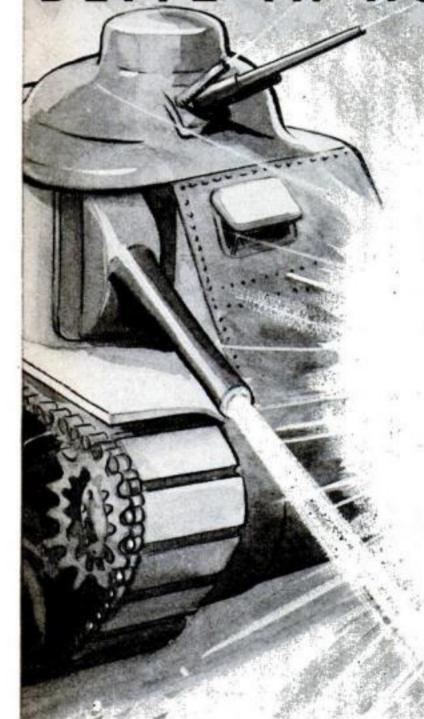
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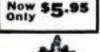


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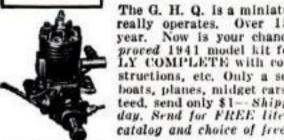
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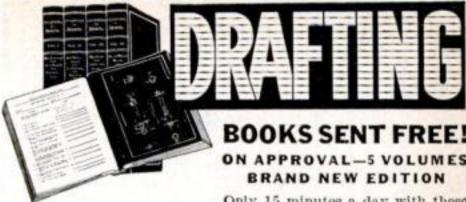
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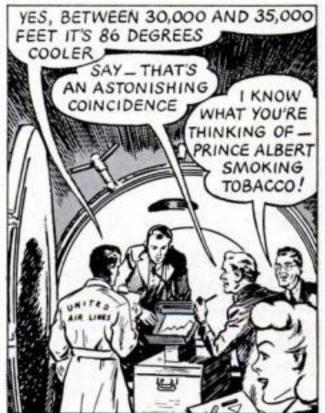


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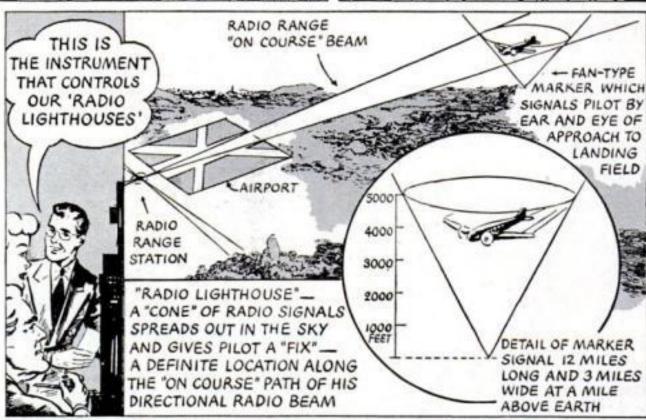




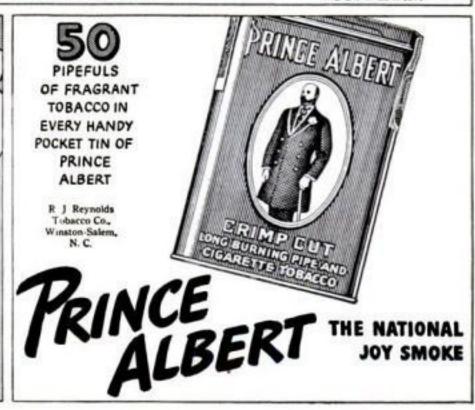
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An employee at the flag and sail loft of the New York Navy yard, Brooklyn, N. Y., at work on a battalion artillery flag. The anchor, emblem of the Navy, appears on many flags made for our sea forces

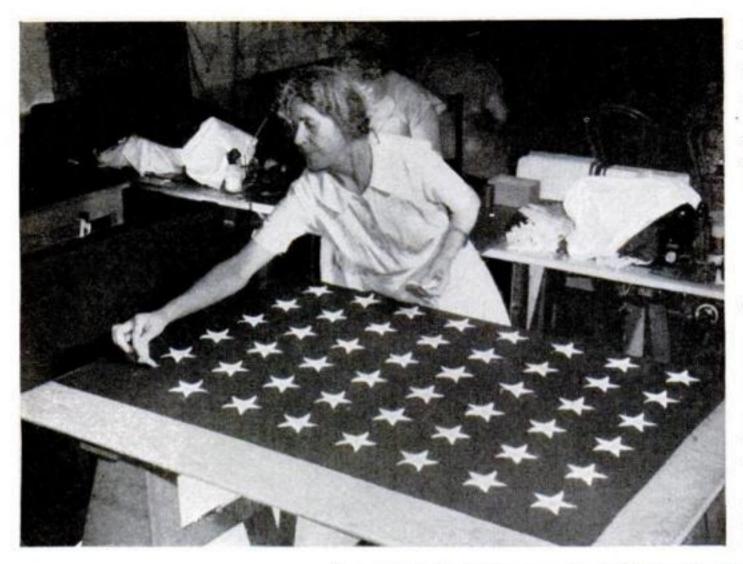
## Lags for Our Navy

#### Busy Loft at Brooklyn Yard Keeps Fleet's Colors Flying

KEPING its growing fleet of ships supplied with the proper flags and pennants is just one of the jobs that is keeping the Navy busy these days. It's a bigger job than you might suspect, for the Navy needs hundreds of thousands of flags a year, and much of the work that goes into them must be done by hand, even in this age of machines.

If all the flags were of one kind, the job would be a lot easier than it is. But Navy vessels, in addition to American flags, or ensigns, as they are known in the Navy, and commission pennants, must have a number of complete sets of alphabet and numeral flags for signaling, flags to show when church services are being held aboard, flags to indicate the rank and command of flag officers aboard, and countless others. Any ship visiting a foreign country must be prepared to fly the national ensign of that country when in port. Altogether, the Navy flag makers must make more than 200 different flags.

The more commonly used flags, such as the ensign, have to be replaced frequently, too, because in windy weather or when doing duty on speedy craft such as destroyers or torpedo boats, they may be whipped to



Placing the stars in the union. Stars are cut from white wool bunting by a stamping machine that punches out 50 at a time, and pasted on the field to be held in place for stitching

Completed unions are stitched to assembled stripes as shown at the left, below. Then the canvas bindings, halyards, hooks, and other fittings go on. For efficiency, each worker performs only one operation on each flag, then passes it on to the next in line

pieces in a few weeks. Back in the days of peace and the depression, the Navy used to repair some of its less battered ensigns, but now there's no time for that, and wornout ones are discarded.

Most of the Navy flags come from the flag and sail loft of the New York Navy Yard, in Brooklyn, N. Y., which is the largest loft of its kind in the world. Right now it has close to 475 women working in three eight-hour shifts every day and turning out more than 3,000 flags a

week. The Navy's other sources of flag supply are lofts in the yards at Mare Island, San Francisco, and Cavite, Philippine Islands.

More ensigns than any other kind of flag are made at the New York yard, because the demand for them is greatest. These range from two feet to as much as 36 feet in length, though only a few of the latter size have ever been made.

With the aid of special sewing machines, average-size ensigns can be turned out at the rate of 30 or 40 an hour. To simplify their manufacture, the work is broken down so that one person performs only one operation on each flag, and then passes it along to someone else.

Red and white wool bunting is laid out on a 50-foot-long table, sometimes as much as 50 layers of it, and cut into strips for the stripes with electrically driven rotary



knives. These are then sewed together with a double-folded seam so that there is no danger of the seam ripping or leaving exposed edges which might fray in the wind.

Stars for the "union" of the ensign are cut from white wool bunting with a stamping machine which punches out 50 stars at a clip. These are pasted on each side of the blue field to hold them in place while they are stitched on. Union and stripes are then sewed together, canvas bindings, halyards, and hooks are fastened to the staff side in a single operation and the flag is complete.

Throughout the operation, in accordance with Navy regulations which state that no U. S. ensign shall be allowed to drag on the deck, floor, or ground, the flags are kept off the floor. If they are so big that they cannot be kept on the sewing-machine table while they are being made, paper is spread on the floor to catch the folds that fall.

POPULAR SCIENCE

One flag which does not have to be made often is that of the President of the United States. When there is a call for one, however, it takes a skilled worker two full weeks to turn it out. The flag is a square blue field with a yellow-tasselled border, four white stars in the corners, and the President's seal embroidered in the center. Part of the design of the seal is embroidered with a special sewing machine, but the more intricate parts must be made by hand. The flag is made of silk instead of bunting, and consequently wears much longer. Silk is used as well for special flags of cabinet officers and high-ranking Navy officers.

Probably the easiest flags to make are the international code flags and pennants. Most of these are combinations of two colors, and the flags representing the letters of the alphabet are just a bit longer than they are high, while the numerals are all long, tapered pennants.

Even here, however, it would be possible to stitch the pieces together wrong. In the

Stripes cut by electrically driven rotary knives from as many as 50 layers of cloth at a time are sewn together with a double-folded seam. In all the operations at the Brooklyn loft, care is taken to see that the national ensign never touches the floor letter H, for instance, which is two vertical stripes, one white and one red, the white stripe must always be placed so that it will be next to the staff when it is hoisted. In the letter Y, made of alternate diagonal stripes of red and yellow, the upper corner at the staff side must be yellow, and the stripes must run upwards from the staff to the opposite side. To prevent mistakes in making these flags, copies of them are painted on the walls of the loft, together with various Navy signal flags denoting formations, maneuvers, and courses.

When the flagmakers are not busy stitching bunting or silk for flags, they are put to work making boat cloths, to drape over the seats of small boats and keep the officers' uniforms clean; green wool covers for the tables in the wardrooms; upholstery for officers' quarters; curtains, and occasionally even pillow cases.

Not long ago the flag and sailmakers loft had to be moved to a larger building, because there wasn't room enough in the old quarters. Now the Navy Yard officials are looking around for still more room. A two-ocean Navy is going to use just about twice as many flags as a one-ocean fleet, and it looks as though the Navy flag makers are going to have their hands full for some time to come.





## All Branches of the Service Find Jobs for the Versatile Quarter-Ton Liaison Truck, a Car of Unlimited Possibilities in War

#### By DAVID M. STEARNS

HERE'S a new piece of Army rolling stock that has most of the soldiers, from privates to generals, in a fever of enthusiasm. It's officially known as a quarter-ton reconnaissance truck, and the enthusiasm arises from the fact that even though it is the smallest, four-wheeled, self-propelled vehicle the Quartermaster Corps has purchased for the Army in large numbers, it can do more things than Army officials or manufacturers expected it to do.

When the first of these small cars was delivered to the Army about a year ago, no-body was quite sure just what it could do, or what it could be used for. But after a year of experimenting it is proving itself the most versatile buggy since the development of the chariot and new uses are still being

found for it in our complex war machine.

The artillery, the cavalry, the infantry, every branch of the service is adapting them to its particular needs. Already they are being used for reconnaissance work, as messenger vehicles, as prime movers for antitank guns, as personnel carriers, as light supply vehicles for front-line units. Their speed and maneuverability enable them to scoot for cover like jackrabbits when the need arises, and they can travel acrosscountry like mountain goats. One cavalry unit has found that by using the gasoline tins used to supply vehicles in the field, they can make a raft which will carry a quarterton truck and which the truck can propel itself by means of a portable paddle wheel hooked up to one of the truck's rear wheels.

Stories and pictures of these amazing wagons have been showing up everywhere,



Climbing a 65-percent grade is one of the things a "bug" has to be able to do to get into the Army. The slope in the photograph is not that steep, but it is a tough climb because it happens to be a sand hill



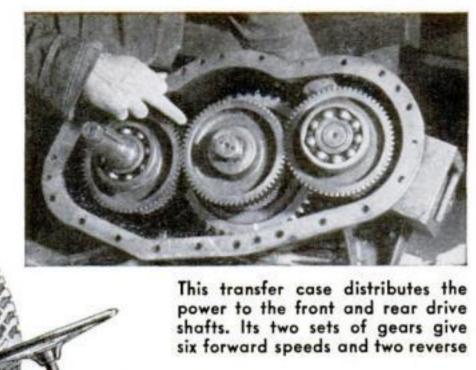
Besides carrying an 800-pound load, the midget car can tow a half ton in the form of a trailer full of supplies or a 37-mm. antitank gun on a two-wheeled mount. Trailers like the one below are attached to the bantam's body by means of a pintle hook which allows the trailer to swing wide on turns and not cramp driving style



Important in rough terrain is the low center of gravity. The cars can be tipped to an angle of 55 degrees with safety



## MECHANICAL FEATURES THAT GIVE THE "BUG" THE POWER TO PERFORM ITS REMARKABLE FEATS



HAND BRAKE

FRONT-WHEEL-DRIVE CONTROL

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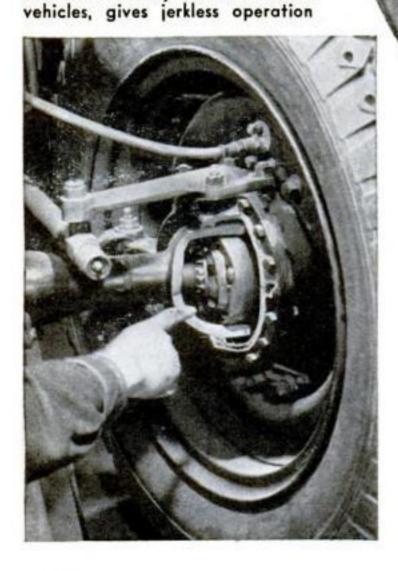
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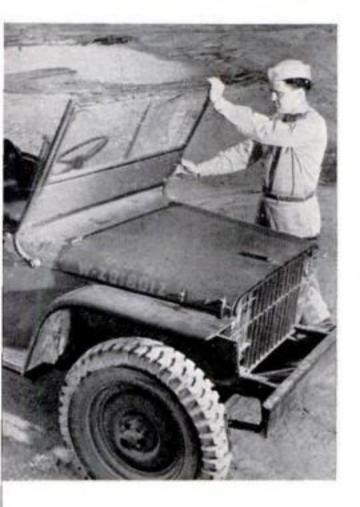
FRONT



but few of them tell just what goes into these mighty midgets, what makes them tick and gives them the "oomph" that is making so many converts among the Army men, notoriously a pretty skeptical crowd.

In spite of their spectacular performance, these cars are in many ways similar to your family jallopy. Steering wheels, brake and clutch pedals, instruments, starter and throttle controls, are all of standard make, similar to those found on commercial cars. Tires are 5.50 by 16, or 6.00 by 16, standard commercial sizes, though made with a special tread. Any competent pleasure or commercial-car driver can step into one and drive it without any trouble.

Windshields can be raised or lowered, and locked securely for taking the bumps





With its windshield up and the tarpaulin top in place, the car makes its closest approach to luxury. While it is by no means a real shelter, the top is better than nothing in a pouring rain



This bracket is the only support needed for the top. When not in use, it is fastened in the rear of the body with the same bolts that hold it erect



The tarpaulin is quickly stretched over the bracket and snapped to the top of the windshield and the rear of the body. Folded, the tarp stows compactly

They have been manufactured principally by three companies—Ford, Bantam, and Willys-Overland. Basically all of the bugs are alike, though the products of the various companies differ in minor details, such as type of shift lever, horsepower of engine, location of headlights, and location and type of emergency-brake controls.

The one thing that all bugs have in common, and the thing that makes them able to do such amazing things, is a selective four-wheel drive, hooked up to a power train that gives them six forward speeds and two reverse.

Power plants are conventional L-head,

four-cylinder engines, ranging from more than 60 horsepower in the Willys (basically the same engine that is used in Willys cars) down to about 45 in the Bantam, which is powered with a Continental engine. The Fords have a tractor engine.

All the engines have full force-feed lubrication systems. They have to have that because they may be required to keep running when the car is climbing a 65-percent grade (about twice as steep as any highway grade you will ever encounter) or running on a side hill, where any other lubrication system might result in burned-out bearings. Incidentally, these cars can be tipped on their

sides to a 55-degree angle before they will capsize.

Oil filler pipes, distributors, generators, batteries, and other electrical units are placed as near the top of the engine as possible so that the bugs can ford streams with water over the floor boards without stopping the engines. All the bugs are equipped with oversize oil filters and air cleaners to strain out the dust—an important consideration in view of the clouds of sand and dust in which they are likely to have to operate.

Power from the engines goes through a standard-type transmission, with a regular H-pattern shift (reverse and low on the left, second and high on the right). Fords and Bantams have shift levers in the floor, while Willys put theirs on the steering post.

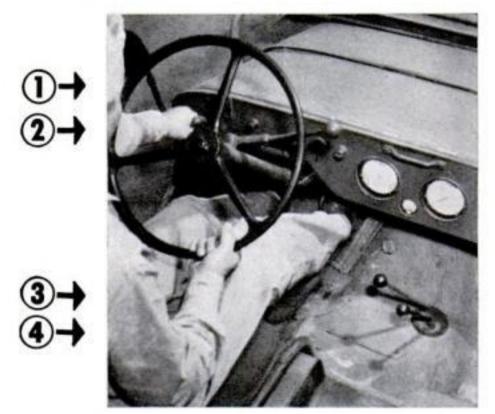
From the transmission the power goes through a transfer case, a gear box which has drive shafts leading fore and aft to provide for the four-wheel drive. It also has two sets of gears, controlled by means of a lever in the floor beside the driver's seat. These are what give the vehicle its eight speeds. In the low range, used for heavy pulling, with speeds running from a few miles an hour in low, even with the engine wide out, up to 25 or better in high, the entire four positions in the transmission can be selected.

Moving the lever forward shifts the transfer case into its high range, in which the transmission can again be used in all four steps, with speeds in each case about double what they are in low range. A bug, in high range, can really travel. Though the rated top speed, which the Army boys are supposed to observe to lengthen the life of the vehicle, is only 55 miles an hour in upper high, they have on more than one occasion done much more than this, and they are officially good for 15 m.p.h. in reverse. They can better 30 m.p.h. in high range intermediate.

In the floor of the car, beside the transfer case control, is a lever which controls the front-wheel drive. This can be locked in for heavy going, or cut out for high-speed work on the highways. Because the low gear range transmits so much power that it might twist the rear driving axles and shaft like wet noodles if all the power went into a two-wheel drive, there is a lock which prevents the driver from shifting the transfer case into low range until the front-wheel drive is locked in. That spreads the power to all four wheels.

That front-wheel drive embodies one of the important units used in practically all Army vehicles, a unit on which Quarter-





Three different makes show minor variations in controls. The Willys, shown here, has the emergency-brake handle (1) on the dash, the gearshift lever (2) on the steering post. On the floor are levers (3) and (4) for front-wheel drive and transfer gears

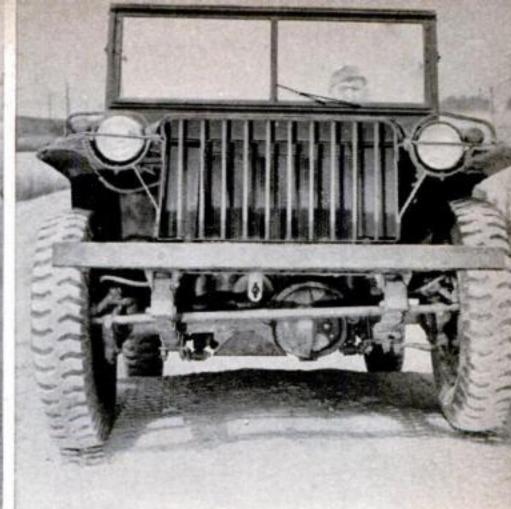
master Corps and commercial engineers worked for years before it reached its present stage of perfection. It is the combined driving and steering joint with which the front wheels are mounted on the axle housing.

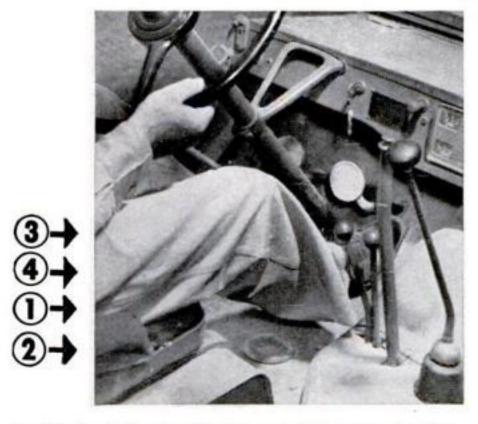
Before it was developed, the universal joints used in front wheels imparted a jerky motion to the wheels when they were cramped one way or the other, causing excessive wear and loss of power. The new unit, which uses a series of balls operating in curved races to transmit the power to the wheels, permits the wheels to be cramped 30 degrees to either side, and used in any position in between without appreciable jerks or loss of power.

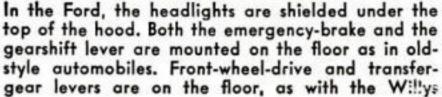
One thing the Army learned about its quarter-tons when it began to use them in

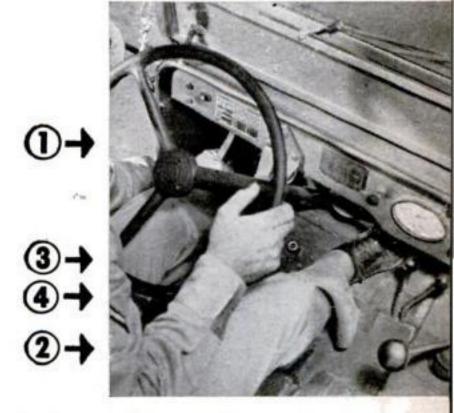
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This is the Bantam. This time the emergency-brake lever is under the dash and the gearshift on the floor. The two other controls have about the same position on all three cars. The differences don't bother the drivers any more than in regular cars

rough cross-country work was that hydraulic-brake tubes, leading from the master cylinder to the wheels, were plenty vulnerable to underbrush and other obstructions unless they were protected. Now they have worked out a system of leading the tubing along the rear sides of the differentials, fastened securely to them, so that it can't be caught and ripped out.

Another thing learned through experience in the field was that the trucks' folding windshields just weren't going to stay put unless they were securely fastened. Now they have hooks on the sides of the hood to fasten them down when they are used in that position, and more hooks to fasten them in place when they are up.

The official name for the trucks, "quarter-

ton," vehicles, is a bit misleading. Actually, the first ones built were designed to carry just about that weight—500 pounds. But since then they have been improved so that they can carry 800 pounds, and in addition tow a 1,000-pound load, which is roughly the weight of the 37-mm. antitank gun which they pull.

If desirable, it is possible to bolt a machine-gun mount to the floor of the body between the two front seats. With a .30 or .50 caliber gun mounted there, and a crew of three men, they can be used for patrolling or reconnaissance work. With their wheelbase of only 84 inches, a good three feet less than the average car, they can be maneuvered almost anywhere. They make excellent units for liaison work, because they

travel fast, and don't need paved roads on which to do it. Some of the trucks, in experiments to improve their already excellent maneuverability, have been built with a four-wheel steering arrangement and a four-wheel drive.

There's a story in the Army to the effect that a lot of capable officers are quite chagrined these days, because when the Bantam company began trying to sell the Army on the idea of a flock of miniature trucks, they didn't like it. Finally, however, the idea got to the ears of somebody

near the top, and he said it was worth a try at least. So an order was placed for 70 of them, a little over a year ago.

The first model turned out set something of a record. Within 49 days from the time the contract was signed for that order, the



Straps across the door openings give riders something to hold onto as they take sharp corners or side slopes

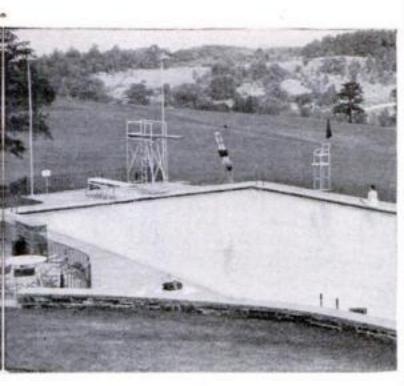
first, or pilot model, was delivered to the Holabird Quartermaster Depot, Baltimore, Md., for testing. So it is easy to understand why, while all the Army is enthusiastic about its new all-purpose car, the bug is the special pride and joy of the Quartermaster Corps. which was directly responsible for the design and testing of the new vehicle. It's the Army's carof-all-work, but Quartermaster Corps' baby.

It's a safe bet that you will be seeing more and more of them doing service for the Army in the near future. And if the

time comes that the Army doesn't need all the production of the automobile factories, it's extremely likely that many of the things learned by the manufacturers in constructing these versatile vehicles will help them to make your family automobile a better car.



For rough going like this, where the humps might damage the running gear underneath, delicate spots are guarded by steel plates and bars. Corrugated steel shields exposed flooring to protect the feet of riders. Handles bolted to the side of the body, as shown at the right, give the crew members something to grab hold of if the car gets bogged down too far



Grinding pigment in a miniature mill, at right, to make rubber paint for tests of durability. Above, an outdoor swimming pool painted with rubber, and, below, an attractive rumpus room with this finish on its floor





#### Rubber Paint

#### GIVES A LASTING FINISH ON CONCRETE WALLS

#### By BARRETT McGURN

DAINT manufacturers, who have been experimenting for the past five years with chlorinated rubber as a new base, believe that at last they have an answer to the tantalizing problem of painting cellar walls and floors and other concrete surfaces.

Oil-base paints—and most paints are of that type-are notorious for frequent failures on concrete bases, particularly in basements. Many an effort to turn a cellar into a rumpus room has ended in despair because the attractive paint job on the wall got bubbly and soapy. The paint cracked, peeled, and washed away, and the floor added to the intended host's misery by getting as skiddy as a slice of cheese.

What happened was that a simple chemical reaction had taken place. The walls and

59

floor felt soapy because they were soapy. A reaction had occurred between free alkali in the concrete and oil in the oil paint, forming ordinary soap. This is known technically as saponification. Moisture got in under the paint, and carried the alkali up to the paint film, where it met the oil. Failure of the paint followed.

Leaving oil out of the formula, and substituting chlorinated rubber for it, makes saponification a chemical impossibility. You can't make soap out of chlorinated rubber, and neither can the most perverse of cellar walls. As a result, the paint lasts.

The rubber-base paint manufacturers say that their paints will give basement concrete an enduring finish in a variety of bright colors. That goes for exterior stucco, too, for brick, cement, plaster, and asbestoscement board, and for garden walls, pools, and fountains. So say the manufacturers, and they have an impressive list of case histories to prove it.

Chlorinated rubber for paint is a product of the Hercules Powder Company of Wilmington, Del., which also makes explosives. The chlorinated rubber, known in this country as parlon, is concocted in a white powdery form. Hercules makes no paint itself. It just sells the parlon to independent paint manufacturers, who in turn make it up according to their own formulas. There are well over 100 parlon paints now, each with characteristics designed to fit different circumstances.

Besides being alkali-resistant, parlon paints are in varying degrees resistant to acids, water, and mold. The latter quality may seem remote to the average householder, but it is of acute importance in bakeries, breweries, pickle works, and food plants. Mold is a major headache in such places.

Parlon was invented in Germany about the time of the last war, and called tornsit, a name by which it was known for years in this country. Germans still call it that. After a plant was erected to manufacture it in Parlin, N. J., the American manufacturers renamed it for the Jersey town, with a onevowel variation.

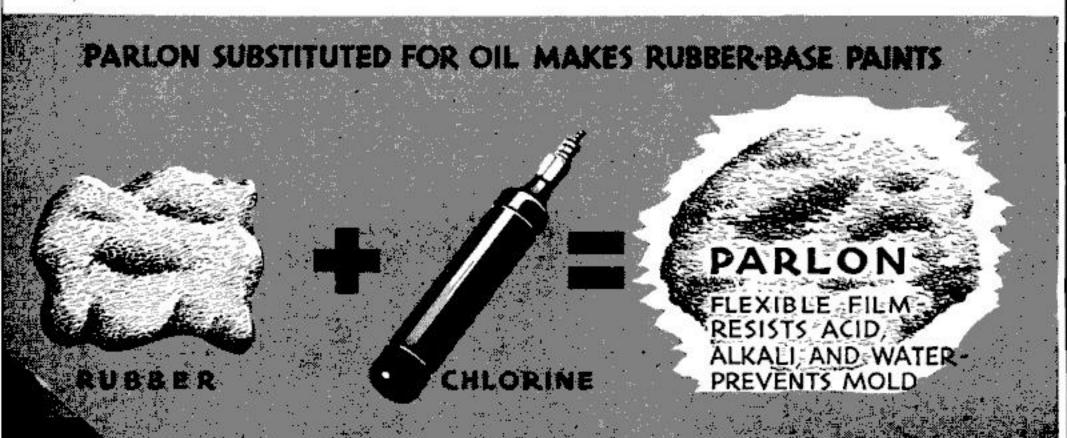
The first step in making parlon is to tap a rubber tree for the watery sap called latex, which is boiled down to remove excess water. Crepe rubber, sometimes called smoke rubber, remains. This is the material used as soles on some sneakers. It is placed in a solvent—some coal-tar derivative such as toluene—and chlorine is bubbled through in gas form. The chlorine forms a compound with the rubber, becoming from 66 to 68 percent of the final powder. The solvent is then evaporated, condensed, and recovered for a repetition of the operation on successive batches of rubber and chlorine, and the compound is taken out and ground down to parlon powder.

By itself parlon is practically useless. But in paint, since it eliminates the use of oil, it makes a variety of remarkable results possible.

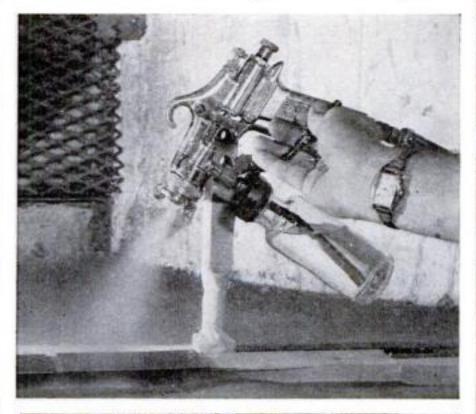
It is used as a mold preventive, for instance. Bakeries have proof rooms in which bread loaves are placed to rise before baking. The natural processes in the bread cause black mold spores to break out on walls coated conventionally with paints containing a vegetable oil base. Such oils are nutrient; they support the growth of mold spores, and these tiny fungi finish by destroying the paint. The mold becomes a decided menace to the food being prepared, too. In spaghetti plants, mold has been known to race through an entire room in a night.

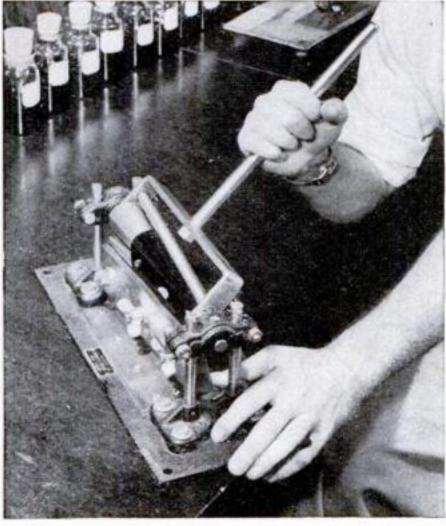
First-class bakeries have made it a practice to wash proof rooms every few weeks. In summer they repaint as often as once a month. Parlon-base paints, however, have cut these periodic paintings down from eight or ten times a year to once or twice, because they not only do not support the growth of mold, but seem even to have a fungicidal action.

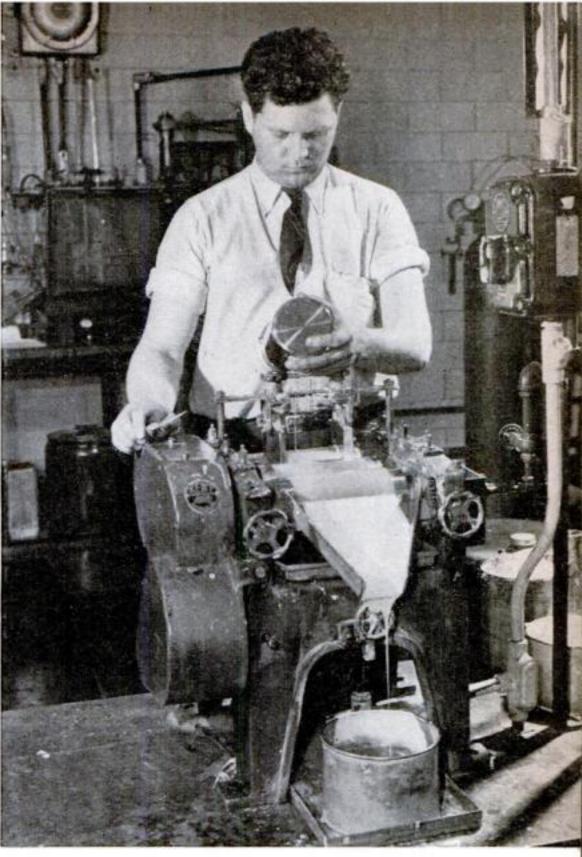
As a test, panels have been painted half



Parlon-base lacquer is applied to a steel panel at the experimental laboratory with an automatic spray gun. This will assure a film of uniform thickness for the severe tests to which the paint will be subjected







Pigments being ground on a three-row mill. This and the machine shown on Page 59 duplicate in miniature the actual process followed in a paint factory. The technician here is mixing a chrome yellow, such as that on toys or brightly painted kitchen furniture

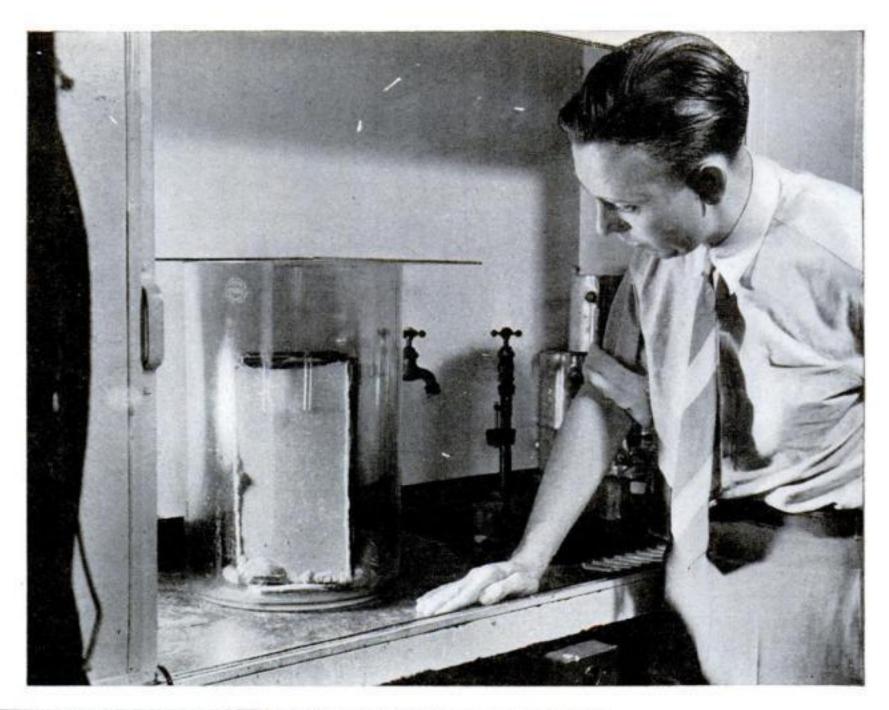
To determine the elongation and flexibility of the paint film, a panel sprayed as shown at upper left is given a conical mandrel test, in which it is bent around a steel cone. If the finish does not crack, even at the point of greatest strain, it is excellent

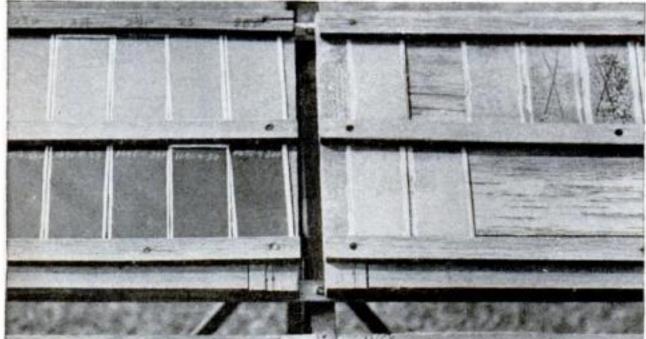
with oil paint and half with parlon paint, and then have been exposed to mold. The oil half becomes a jungle of spores, while the parlon side stays clean and blank.

Parlon resists alkaline action because it is chemically inert to alkalis. This has proved a boon in laundries and dairies. Alkaline soaps used in laundries are disastrous to many oil paints, but parlon paints have been left fresh and white after exposure. The makers have their eyes on filling stations, also, saying that the paints are impervious to oils, grease, and gasoline as well.

Parlon paint manufacturers are trying to get the paint adopted in mills and factories where resistance to corrosion is a needed factor. A large percentage of industrial plants comes under that heading. Parlon paints specially formulated have withstood in tests solutions of 50 percent ammonium nitrate, 5 to 50 percent sodium hydroxide, 5 to 70 percent sulphuric acid, 85 percent phosphoric acid, 10 percent hydrochloric acid, and 10 percent nitric acid; organic acids, such as 5 to 80 percent lactic; bleach solutions; corrosive gases, such as hydrogen sulphide, sulphur dioxide, ammonia, and chlorine itself; mineral oils; and salt water and fresh water.

Parlon paint seems to pull a rubber rain-





Above, concentrated nitric acid fumes eating into the finish on a panel. Rubber paint will stand up under this test for three weeks, it is claimed, while some others fail in two hours

Panels at left are facing the sun at an angle of 45 degrees in an outdoor test for weather resistance. In the photo, rubber-painted panels are shown at left, other finishes are at right

coat over many brick walls suffering from moisture seepage. One case was that of the Murray Hill Hospital on Manhattan Island near New York City's Grand Central Terminal. One side of the hospital was a brick wall twelve stories high. It was old, and for years had leaked water in every good rain. A coat of parlon paint stopped the leakage at once.

The city administration of New York has used it a lot, too. One leading example is the huge municipal swimming pool in Astoria, Queens. Fourteen thousand persons a day bathe there in summer, and in winter the paint gets a different type drubbing from the shoes of children playing organized

games on the drained bottom of the pool. Soot and gas from boats passing a few hundred feet away on the East River add another burden. Yet the paint has borne up.

Parlon colors are also urged by the sponsors for use on stadia, playgrounds, playground equipment, water works, fountains, auditoriums, prisons, and other public buildings, most of which now are monotonously sandy-hued.

The Hercules Company recommends parlon paint manufacturers to inquirers. So far it has expanded its parlon-base section twice, and will again when defense requirements are met and nickel is released for the necessary production apparatus.

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# NATIONAL BANK

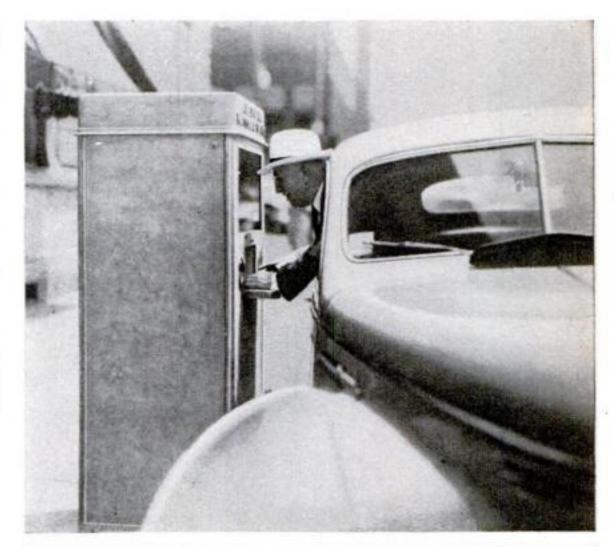
Customers in cars can transact their banking business at this curbside teller's window. It may also be used by pedestrians when the windows inside are congested

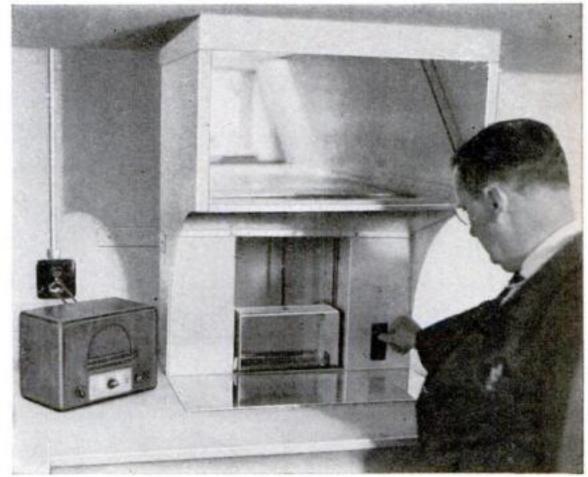
At upper right, a motorist makes a deposit. Through a shatterproof glass window he sees the teller face to face through a periscope arrangement of tilted mirrors

In his thugproof chamber underground, the teller operates the electric dumb-waiter and talks with the customer by means of a speaker system seen at the left

#### Bank Gives Curb Service to Motorists with Novel "Teller-Vision" Cage

CALLED the first of its kind in the country, a curbside teller's window for motorists has been placed in service by the American National Bank, Portsmouth, Va. Without leaving his car, a customer may make deposits or transact other business. To forestall robbery, the teller occupies an underground chamber, but he and the customer see each other face to face through mirrors of a large periscope. An electrical system permits two-way conversation. Money and papers are conveyed between customer and teller by a miniature electric dumbwaiter, controlled by push buttons from below.







### FLYING-SCHOOL PRANKS

#### Season Fledgling Pilots at Randolph Field

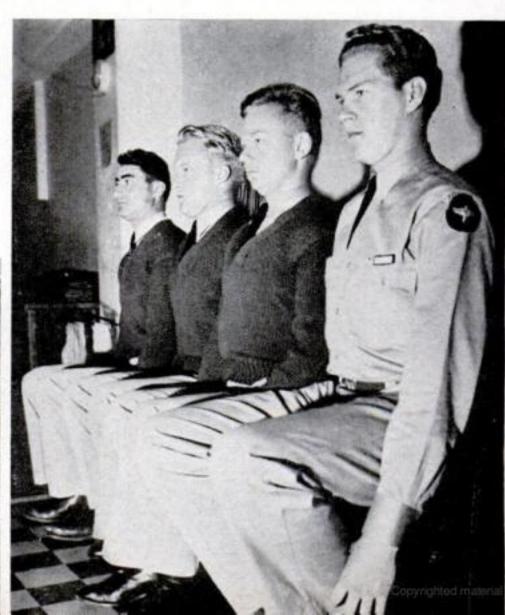
EARNING to fly for the Army isn't all done in planes and classrooms at Randolph Field. The upper-classmen see to that. They keep the lower-classmen on the jump with various forms of fun that runs all the way from "bracing," or chest expansion, to "flying formations" while walking off demerits on the quadrangle. So that there won't be any cases of mistaken identity, lower classmen must wear their goggles around their necks when not flying, while their elders keep theirs on their foreheads.

A special lesson in "bracing" for a new cadet whose posture does not come up to Randolph Field standards. The chest is thrown out, chin and stomach drawn in

Waiting in the barber shop for the "Randolph Rip," as the official haircut of the field is called, a quartet of neophytes sits "at brace." The kidding of new men is mild and good-natured, as at college

Even in flying gear, it is easy to distinguish a lower from an upper-classman. The youngsters must wear their goggles down around their necks instead of in the conventional way on the forehead





From the minute they arrive at the field, cadets are reminded that they're "in the Army now." Here a group of new men, with their luggage in their hands, are being given a critical inspection by an old-timer. "Stand at attention—chins up, stomachs in," is the order from now on

Walking off demerits on the quadrangle, freshmen take orders from a gallery of upper-classmen. The men below are "correcting for wind drift"—turning in the toes and leaning as if to offset a side wind. The maneuver must be executed to meet the approval of all the onlookers





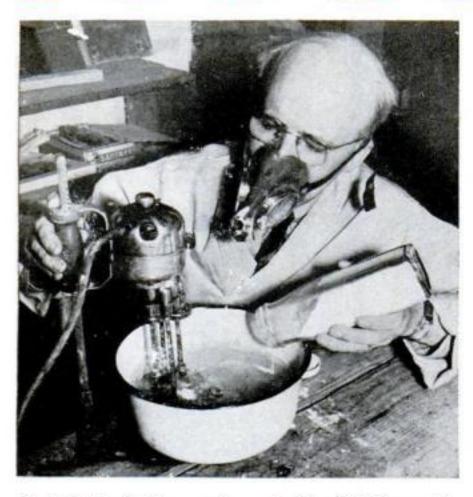


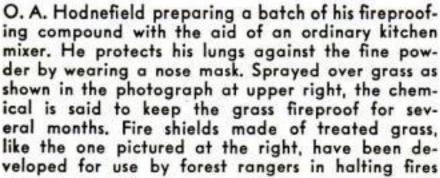
New men get "square meals" at Randolph. They must sit rigidly on the front four inches of their chairs, lift their food in angular movements like robots, keep silence



"Flying in formation" is another stunt that is required of men in walking off demerits incurred by doing anything wrong, such as neglecting to salute an officer or to say "Sir." Faulty work in the classroom can also bring demerits. These must be "walked off" by the cadets in their spare time on a pavement in the quadrangle. Upper-classmen are always on hand to see the fun and suggest stunts for victims

#### Chemical Fireproofer Smothers Fire Bombs









EW WAYS to fight the menace of incendiary bombs are proposed by O. A. Hodnefield, after 19 years of research in a small garage laboratory near Montrose, Calif. One of his schemes calls for spraying the fierce blaze with a fire-proofing liquid of his invention, which he maintains will prove an effective extinguisher. Another method would smother the flames beneath fireproofed sawdust, previously treated with the same preparation.

Just what chemicals Hodnefield uses, and how he blends them, remain his secret. It takes only two men, however, to turn out 1,000 gallons an hour. At present he produces the fluid commercially for movie studios, where it fireproofs large drapes and cloth backings exposed to hot lamps. Aviation factories also use the material, he says, to safeguard walls, storerooms, and combustible parts of planes themselves.

Another wartime application of the composition, Hodnefield foresees, may safeguard stores or shiploads of petroleum. His tests indicate that addition of a small amount of his liquid will keep crude oil from burning. When the oil is refined, it is separated from the fireproofing agent, which may be recovered for further use.

Originally, however, the inventor concentrated his attention on peacetime applications. A two-bedroom wooden dwelling, he estimates, could be rendered safe against fire at a cost of only \$200. He has also developed fire shields of treated grass, to combat grass fires. Except in a high wind, a row of these shields would halt the advancing flames.

Photographs on these pages include views of striking tests applied to the fireproofing fluid. Other trials, according to the inventor, show that dry grass, treated 13 weeks earlier, cannot be set aflame with an oxyacetylene torch; and that the preparation successfully resists extraction from treated lumber by more than 1,000 washings with soap solution, or by steaming the wood and then subjecting it to a powerful vacuum.

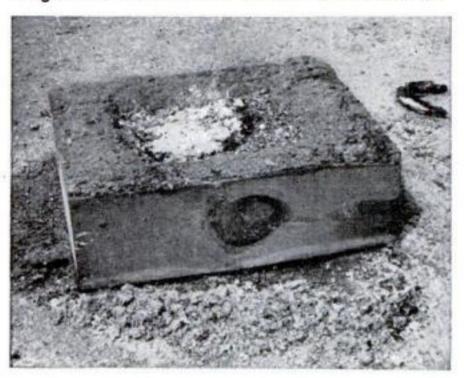
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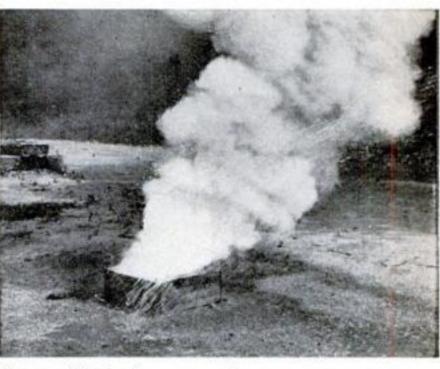
To show the wartime possibilities of his invention, Hodnefield prepares a homemade incendiary bomb by pouring magnesium, aluminum shavings, and iron filings into a carton in a box of treated sawdust



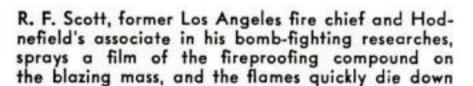
... and places in its center a stick of phosphorus taken from the jar of oil in which it was kept to prevent its igniting spontaneously from contact with the air. Phosphorus is handled with pliers



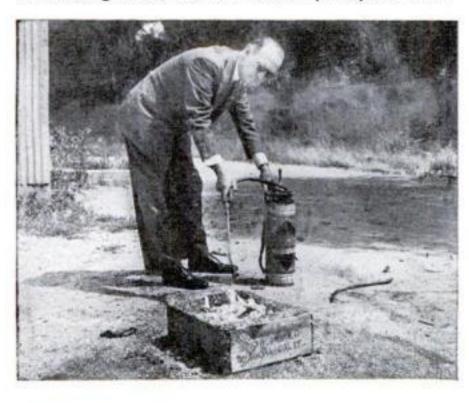
Touched off with a burning newspaper, the "thermite" glows white-hot at a temperature of 1,600 degrees. In a regular incendiary bomb, the flames are started mechanically when it hits something



This is all that happens when you put water on a thermite bomb. Smoke billows from the burning material and the flames leap higher. Other ordinary means of fire-fighting prove equally ineffectual



Another method is to cover the "bomb" with a few handfuls of sawdust treated with the compound, to blanket and kill the fire. Treated sawdust around the thermite is charred only a quarter inch deep



OCTOBER, 1941



Tucked in bed in his sleep insurer, the daylight sleeper is prepared to get a full eight hours of rest with noises and light completely cut off



Door of compartment is three inches thick, as are the walls and ceiling. They are made of composition board and soundproofing materials. Sponge rubber seals the door against light

## Sleep Booth

#### BUILT BY NIGHT WORKER IS SOUNDPROOF, AIR-CONDITIONED

TO INSURE himself unbroken rest for his eight-hour sleeping period, Joseph Landless, of Los Angeles, Calif., goes to bed in a portable light-proof, air-conditioned, sound-deadened compartment. It fits over a full-length three-quarter bed.

Landless got the idea for his "slumber insurer" several years ago when he went to work as night watchman for a wholesale grocer, and found daytime sleeping subjected to hundreds of annoying interruptions.

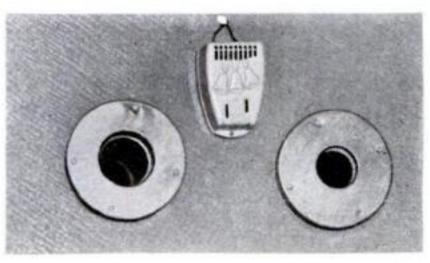
Picking up insulating materials, fans and other parts at second-hand dealers, he gradually evolved the compartment. It consists of a light framework and insulation materials. Walls and ceiling are three inches thick, and made of composition board and sound-proofing fiber. The cabinet is four feet wide, five feet high, and seven feet long.

On the hottest day, Landless sleeps in cool air filtered through a moistened excelsior pad set in a wall of his living room. Two fan blowers change the air twice every minute. Fresh air enters the compartment through a pair of circular inlets near the ceiling, and old air is expelled through two screen-covered vents in the ceiling at the opposite end.

When Landless slams the door closed, the compartment is completely dark. To guard against light leaks,







Two blower-type fans furnish a continuous supply of fresh air, drawing it through a moistened excelsior pad, above. In winter an electric heater takes the place of the cooling system. At left, above, old air is expelled through two screened vents in the ceiling

the door is sealed by sponge rubber strips, and the exhausted air zigzags around the edges of five baffles, which form an effective light trap.

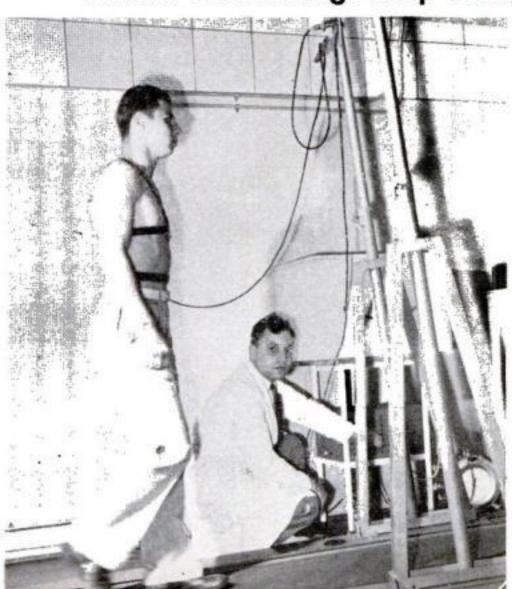
In the winter, Landless changes the evaporative cooler for a small electric heating element. Not once in two years of daytime sleeping has he suffered a cold. Should he ever require treatment for a bronchial ailment, he plans to breathe the fumes of the

Air enters the sleep booth through the twin circular inlets shown at left. The buzzer between them does duty as an alarm clock, but isn't automatic; someone in the household must stay awake in order to buzz it

prescribed medicine as they waft across his bed through the air circuit, placing a few drops on the excelsior pad.

So effective has the system proved, Landless sleeps better in his tiny compartment during the day than in a near-by bedroom on his night off. In fact, he believes he has discovered an effective way for night workers all over the country to get their daytime sleep. The cost to him was only about \$60.

#### Soldier Guinea Pigs Help Science to Better Their Diet



PLAYING guinea pig while doctors make studies to determine the best diet for them is just another job for Uncle Sam's soldiers. At left, Private Wayne Stacy, of Waterloo, Iowa, walks a treadmill at the University of Minnesota after taking some of the high-concentrate vitamin capsules shown below, while a doctor checks his heart rate. The average soldier's diet gives him plenty of energy, but the capsules might be handy if supplies run low.





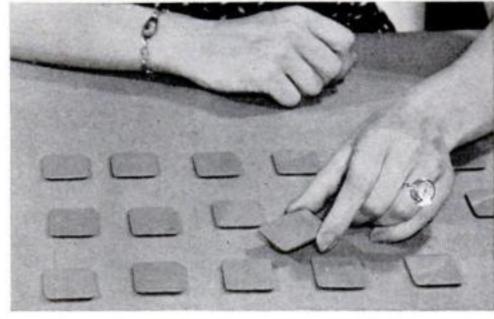
Carl E. Foss, New York color consultant, giving the new color-aptitude test using forty tinted grayish chips of metal. This test is said to provide a more accurate criterion of a subject's ability to distinguish colors than any method ever employed before

As the subject receives chips from a duplicate set, she matches them up with those laid out on the table before her

#### Matching Up Chips Provides Accurate Color-Vision Test

out on a gray-topped table, provide a new and more delicate test for color vision. They not only detect major defects but are designed to give, for the first time, a scientific yardstick for measuring aptitude in distinguishing slight color differences. Such tests are expected to prove invaluable in selecting men with the greatest natural ability for matching textiles, dyes, and inks, and may be of help as well in picking the right people in various defense activities.

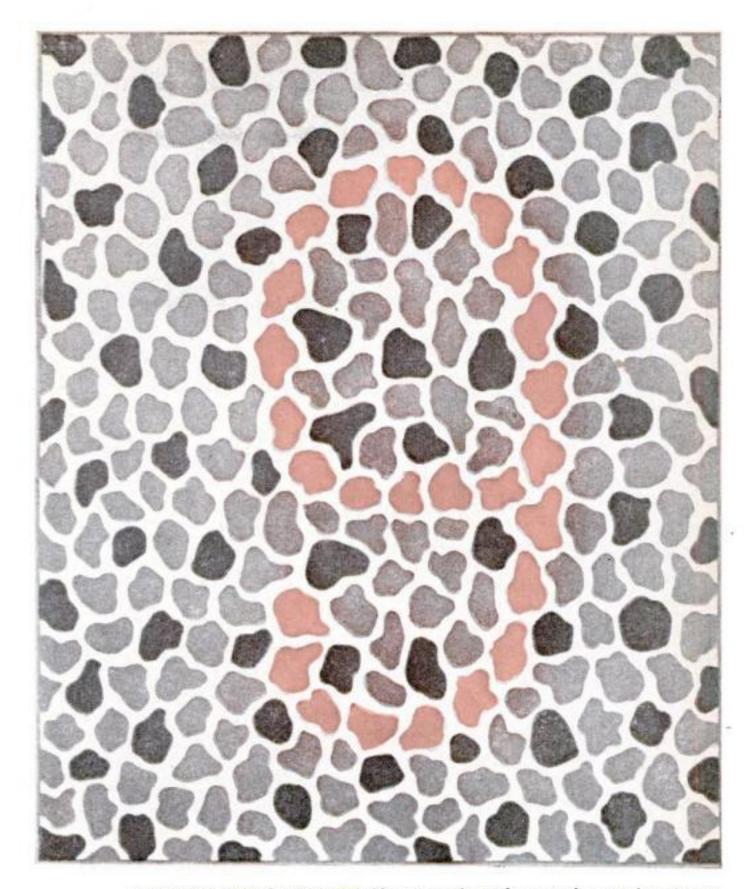
A committee of the Inter-Society Color Council, headed by Dr. Forrest L. Dimmick, of Hobart College, and Carl E. Foss, New York color consultant, developed the new test after months of research. The subject



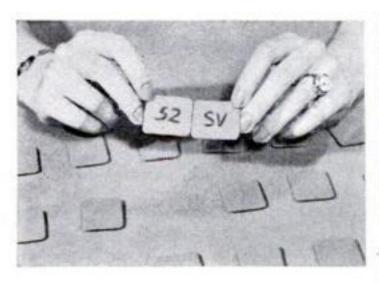
is seated before a table on which forty chips, ranging in color from a weak red through gray to a weak red-purple, are laid out in even rows. Daylight, or the equivalent, illuminates the table. One by one, the subject tries to match chips from a duplicate pile. As each selection is made, the code mark on the back of each of the chips is noted on a score sheet. Later, conversion of the code from a key determines the number of right selections.

So slight are the variations in color that even experts fail to make a perfect score. For normal eyes, the test requires about three quarters of an hour. In two minutes, however, it will reveal any serious defect in color vision. Because the chips on the table are laid out in random order, and the matching ones are shuffled each time, there is no chance for the subject to memorize the test.

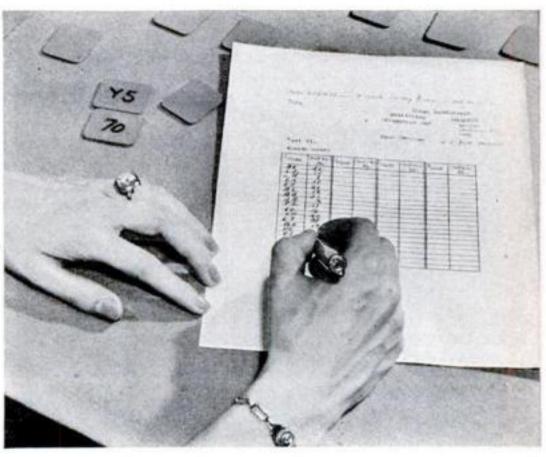
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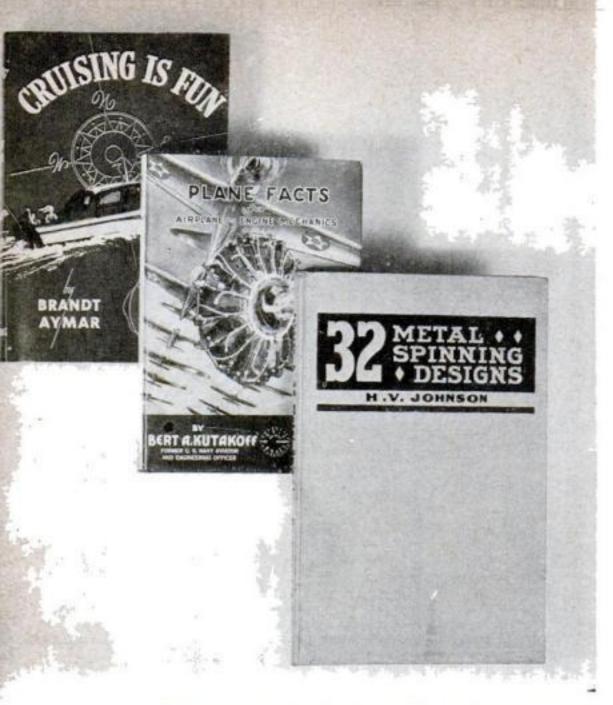


ARE YOU COLOR-BLIND? If you can't make out the number 9 outlined in red in the mosaic pattern above, you are color-blind to red. This is a standard test for detecting major defects in color vision



In the new test shown on the opposite page, a subject's score is found by noting the code marks on the table chips and on the duplicate pieces matched with them. Numbers are used on one set and letters on the other. Converting the code from a key shows the total of right and wrong selections made





GETTING IN ON AVIATION. In a short span of only 30 years or so, aviation has become one of our most important industries. "Plane Facts for Airplane and Engine Mechanics" (Military Book Company, \$1.75), points out the broadening opportunities for a job seeker in this field. In succeeding chapters the author, Bert A. Kutakoff, describes details of airplane maintenance and repair, with questions and answers showing their practical application.

HANDBOOK FOR YACHTSMEN. Simplified to basic essentials, for the benefit of average boat owners, "Cruising Is Fun" (Greenberg: Publisher, \$2.50) might be called a "how to" book for nautical enthusiasts. Its author, Brandt Aymar, gives an old salt's advice on planning a cruise; reading charts; plotting a course; allowing for winds, tides, and currents; navigating in a fog; calculating speed; and a goodly number of pointers on how not to handle a boat. Provisions of the new motorboat law of 1940. many of which have already been put in force, make up a useful section of the book.

METAL SPINNING is the art of raising disks of sheet metal into contoured forms by spinning on a lathe. In "32 Metal Spinning (Bruce Publishing Designs" Company, \$2), Harold V. Johnson describes the method, and offers amateur craftsmen detailed instructions for making a wide variety of beautiful and household accessories. useful These include ash trays, candlesticks, cigarette cases, flowerpot holders, and bowls and lamps of many kinds. To extend the choice of materials, the book contains several projects constructed from a combination of metal, plastics, and wood.

## Question BEE

How much do you know about chemistry? Turn to page 222 to see how many of your answers are correct

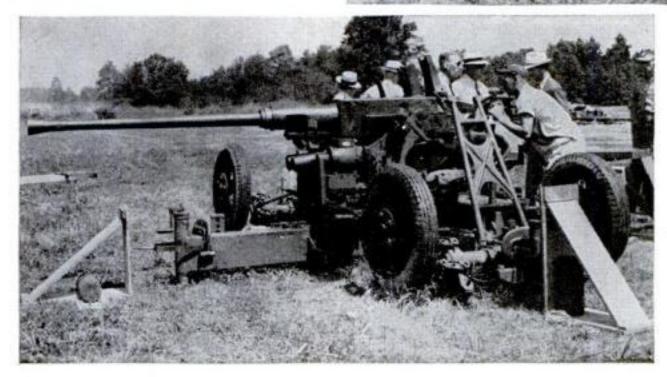
- 1 Dry ice is frozen (a) manganese dioxide (b) carbon dioxide (c) sulphur dioxide.
- 2 All of the following substances will burn, except (a) diamonds (b) iron (c) glass (d) ammonia gas.
- 3 Gasoline is (a) an element (b) a compound (c) a mixture of different compounds.
- 4 If a solid substance vaporizes without melting or decomposing, it is said to (a) effloresce (b) sublime (c) calcine (d) explode.
- 5 You would use an autoclave to (a) filter off a precipitate (b) weigh out minute quantities of chemicals (c) heat substances under pressure.

- 6 In the formula,  $Ca_3$  (PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, the part between the parentheses is called (a) a radical (b) an amalgam (c) a conglomerate.
- 7 Catalysts are used to (a) clean test tubes (b) promote chemical reactions (c) test precious metals.
- 8 An ester is (a) a specialist in pharmaceutical preparations (b) an organic chemical (c) a type of distilling apparatus.
- 9 Qualitative analysis will tell you (a) what a substance is made of (b) the exact amount of each constituent (c) the quality of the ingredients.
- 10 Any chemist should be able to (a) operate a woodworking lathe (b) cut and bend glass tubing (c) bake a cake.

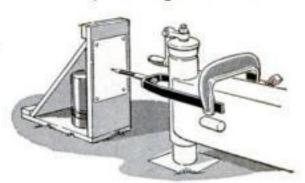
# NEW TOOLS FOR ARMY POWER

American Genius
Matches Wit with
the Best Abroad
to Build Up a War
Machine Able to
Guard Our Shores





NEW BOFORS 40-MM. GUN. It fires 120 two-pound shells a minute, at low-flying planes. At the left, it is undergoing the "jump test" that shows whether the recoil mechanism absorbs the "kick." Pencils on outriggers, as below, record any carriage movement

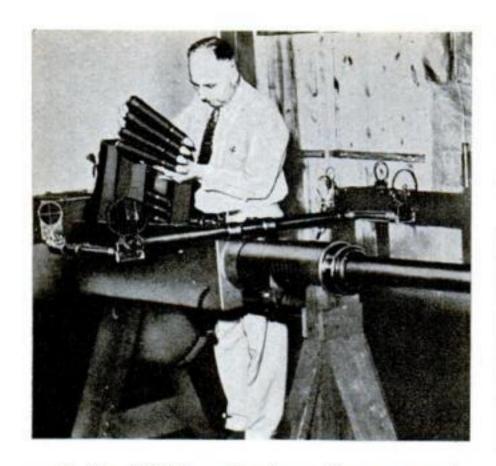


#### By ALDEN P. ARMAGNAC

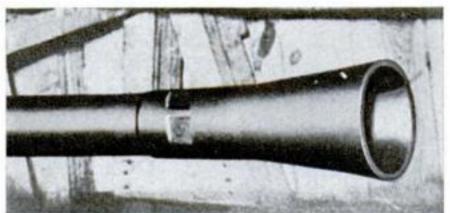
Army is getting new tools to do its work. Eagerly studying the innovations of foreign warfare, military observers have brought home the fruit of its lessons. Inventive genius here has matched its skill against the best abroad. And weapons that existed only on paper, not long ago, now are being readied for any necessary "blitzkrieg" of our own.

One serious problem has been to find a suitable rapid-firing cannon for use against low-flying planes. Army experts believe they have found the answer in the Bofors 40-millimeter (1.6-inch) gun, a foreign design improved by such American refinements as welding instead of riveting. Trials of the U. S. version at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., show that it hurls two-pound explosive shells at the terrific rate of 120 a minute.

Recoil mechanism of any gun should ab-



AMMUNITION FOR THE BOFORS is fed to the gun in clips, as shown in a factory test at left. The Chrysler Corporation will have this gun in mass production to the tune of 300 a month by late fall or early winter. Below is the business end of the Bofors, with its flared muzzle resembling that of a blunder-buss. This conceals the flash in firing. American experts have improved on the European design by refinements including welding instead of riveting



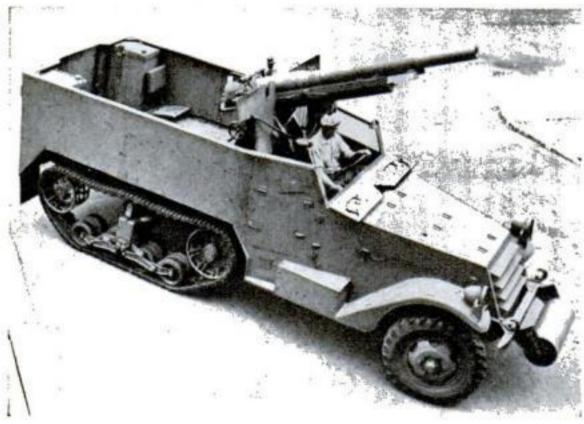
sorb the "kick" and return the weapon to firing position, without allowing the carriage to shift and spoil the aim. Hence the Bofors carriage had to pass a "jump test," as illustrated. Pencils mounted on outriggers are pressed by springs against cardboard thumbtacked to fixed wooden standards. When the gun is fired, any movement of the carriage will automatically be traced by the pencils on the cardboard.

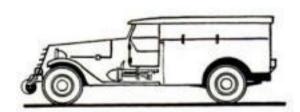
For computing range and elevation of ground targets, airplane maps now are supplemented by a remarkable instrument called the Wild T2 theodolite. This device

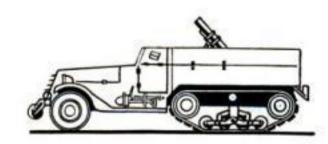
operates on the general principle of a surveyor's transit, but with such extraordinary precision that it locates targets at great distances within the bursting area of a sixinch shell. Its scale reads to one second of an arc, or to a 1/3,600 part of a circle. Gas masks for theodolite users have special eyepieces.

If need be, the U. S. Army will be prepared to fight fire with fire. Flame throwers









NEW VEHICLES. From the sevenman scout car (top drawing) Army men now have evolved the armored 14-man personnel carrier in the upper photo. And, just as the eightman car-personnel (bottom drawing) proved useful as a mount for a mortar, so the personnel carrier mounts a "75" and becomes our first self-propelled gun platform





OPTICAL ADVANCES. For laying the base lines for aerial mapping, the Wild T2 theodolite gives such accurate readings that it makes possible the locating of targets at great distances within the bursting area of a six-inch shell. Tank crews get new safety from a periscope resembling the Canadian model shown above, which permits the use of a shield to stop bullets

used in Europe, for assault on concrete fortifications and for infantry defense against tanks, look bulky and cumbersome beside a compact 70-pound model recently demonstrated at Fort Belvoir, Va. Carried like a pack, its tank projects a 2,200-degree flame to a range of 90 feet. Bursts of as long as 18 seconds are fired by a trigger on the nozzle. In contrast with other types, its carrier need not wear asbestos clothing.

A 50-ton juggernaut, first of a new series of heavy Army tanks, was nearing comple-

tion at this writing. Its reported innovations will include a "tank periscope," already tried out successfully Canada, in which the commanding officer will direct the driver and aim gunbehind the observation slit stops machinegun bullets that might enter and ricochet within the tank.

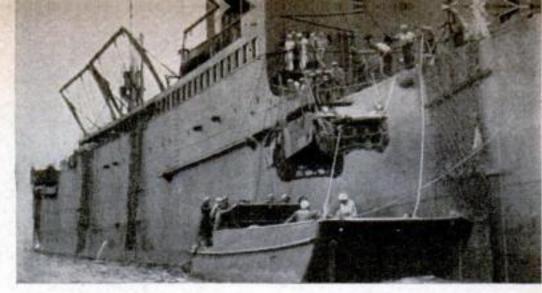
To rush troops into battle, the Army has perfected a new armored personnel carrier. whose lengthened body provides room for 14 soldiers—twice the number that could be transported in former "half-track" models. Another version of the latest design constitutes the first self-propelled mount for a field gun of 75 millimeters (three inches). Like earlier half-tracks, the hy-

through fire. A block of armor

FLAME THROWERS tested recently at Fort Belvoir, Va., are more compact than European models. Controlled by a trigger on the nozzle, this weapon throws a 2,200-degree flame for 90 feet in bursts as long as 18 seconds







LANDING TROOPS on hostile shores is practiced in joint Army and Navy maneuvers off the Florida coast. At the left, infantrymen are piling into a landing boat from a transport. Above, a squad car goes over the side for the trip ashore. Below, one of the larger landing boats is carrying a 15-ton tank

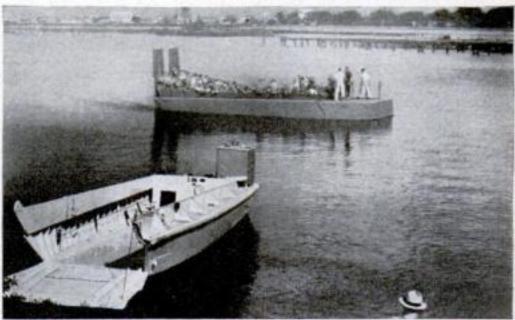


brid vehicles travel on tractor treads at rear, and wheels in front, plus a cylindrical roller that enables them to wallow through mud, slush, and sand.

Joint Army and Navy maneuvers anticipate possible troop landings upon enemyheld shores. Latest types of landing boats vary in length from 36 to 45 feet. The

smaller model carries 39 fully armed troops, or an armored scout car. Mounting a machine-gun turret in its bow, it speeds at 25 knots under the power of its 250-horsepower Hall-Scott motor, and can lay a smoke screen to conceal other landing boats. Loaded from a transport, it is driven right up on a beach. If reversing the boat fails to

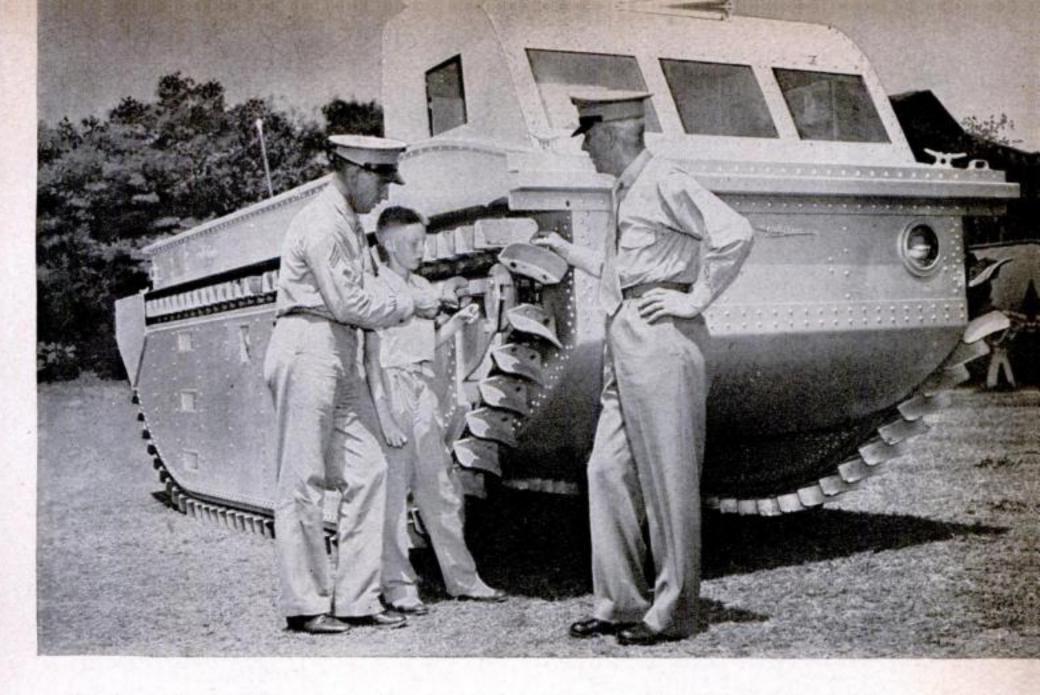




In a test at the plant of Higgins Industries, Inc., manufacturers, 188 workmen are crowded aboard one of the 45-foot landing boats. In the foreground is a 36-foot boat designed to carry light vehicles

At the left, a fleet of landing boats maneuvers in another factory test. In the lead is a 70-foot motor torpedo boat acting as a mother ship. The landing boats have machine-gun turrets in their bows, and are driven by 250-horsepower engines at 25 knots

POPULAR SCIENCE



float it again, a kedge anchor thrown sternward is drawn in by a winch to free it.

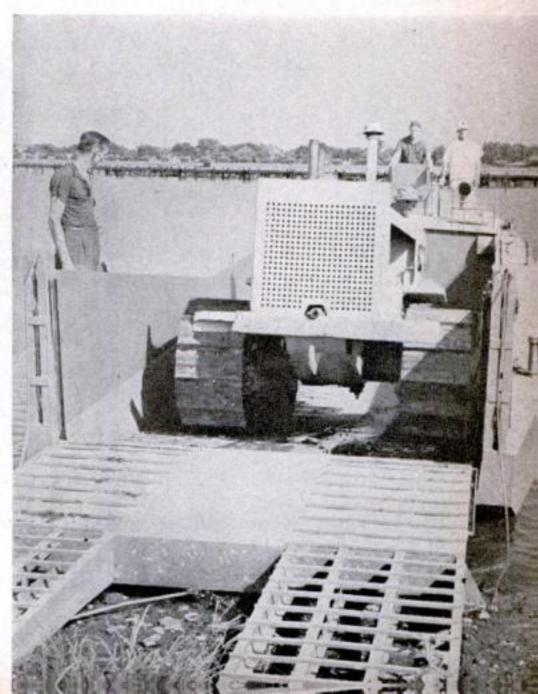
The larger, 45-foot boat ferries 188 men ashore at a time. Alternately, it can carry a light 15-ton tank or a husky tractor. Diesel motors power these twin-screw craft. Photographs on these pages, some published here for the first time, illustrate typical maneuvers.

AN AMPHIBIAN, like the Marines who use it, this queer land-and-water craft can be unloaded over the side of a ship to make its way to land at nine miles an hour. On shore, it carries 20 fully equipped Marines at 28 miles an hour. Armament consists of two machine guns. The Marines are specialists in landings



Workmen disembarking from the large landing boat after the trial shown on the opposite page. As seen here, it can be driven right up onto a beach to discharge its cargo of men or vehicles

A tractor crawls ashore over the lightweight landing stage of open construction which comes down from the end of the boat. This particular boat was designed for the transportation of 15ton tanks to the shore to cover landing parties



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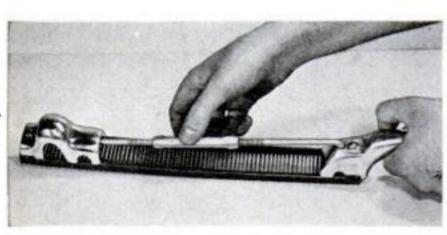


Joseph Anton Shredl with his guitars—all he has kept from the 200 made in the last 50 years. The wood in the darker ones came from a black-walnut newel post taken from an old Virginia home

# Cabinetmaker Builds Guitars as Hobby for a Half Century

AKING guitars of exquisite beauty and tone quality provides a spare-time hobby for Joseph Anton Shredl, cabinet-maker, of Floral Park, N. Y. Their delicate inlay work reflects his skill at his regular craft. But most of all he prides himself upon their bell-like tone and exceptional resonance, secrets it took him 50 years to find.

In that time, he has constructed more than 200 guitars—and taken nearly all of them apart again. He retains about a dozen, the finest that his efforts have produced, which hang on a wall in his parlor. Several were made of black walnut over 200 years old, taken from a newel post found in a Colonial mansion in Richmond, Va. Would he sell one of them? He doesn't know—but, if he did, it would be to a musician who could appreciate the high quality he has built into the instrument.





#### File Has Slots to Pass Chips

SLOTS between multiple blades allow chips to pass through the file pictured above, without clogging it. The advantage becomes marked in filing nonferrous metals, plastics, and hardwood. A detachable knob-and-turn-buckle assembly changes the shape of the tool from flat to slightly convex or concave.





**Dry Cell Stays Fresh** 

A FLASHLIGHT cell of new design defies deterioration while it stands on a dealer's shelf. Its carbon rod, electrolyte, and zinc casing remain out of contact until an inner glass bulb is broken by a sharp tap. This allows the electrolyte to escape into the filler compound, energizing the cell to full strength in less than a second. In other respects, it resembles any other cell.



Conventional Cell



Seated in this chair of special design, an actress can relax as she is freshened up for another scene. To have a shampoo, she is wheeled over to a wash basin and the chair is tilted backward as is shown at lower right

#### Stars Use Make-up Chair

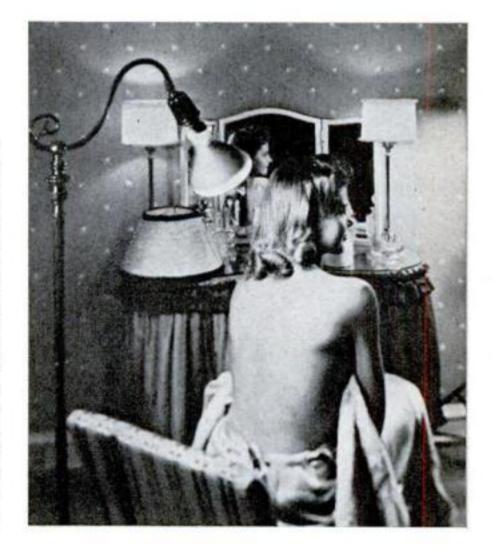
OVIE actresses rest comfortably, while receiving make-up or hair washes, in a novel "shampoo chair" with tilting back and seat, the latter of extra length. Casters enable the chair and its occupant to be wheeled easily between make-up mirror and wash basin. More practical than luxurious, the device helps prevent fatigue on a busy day, when an actress may have to visit the make-up department repeatedly to keep fresh for successive scenes.

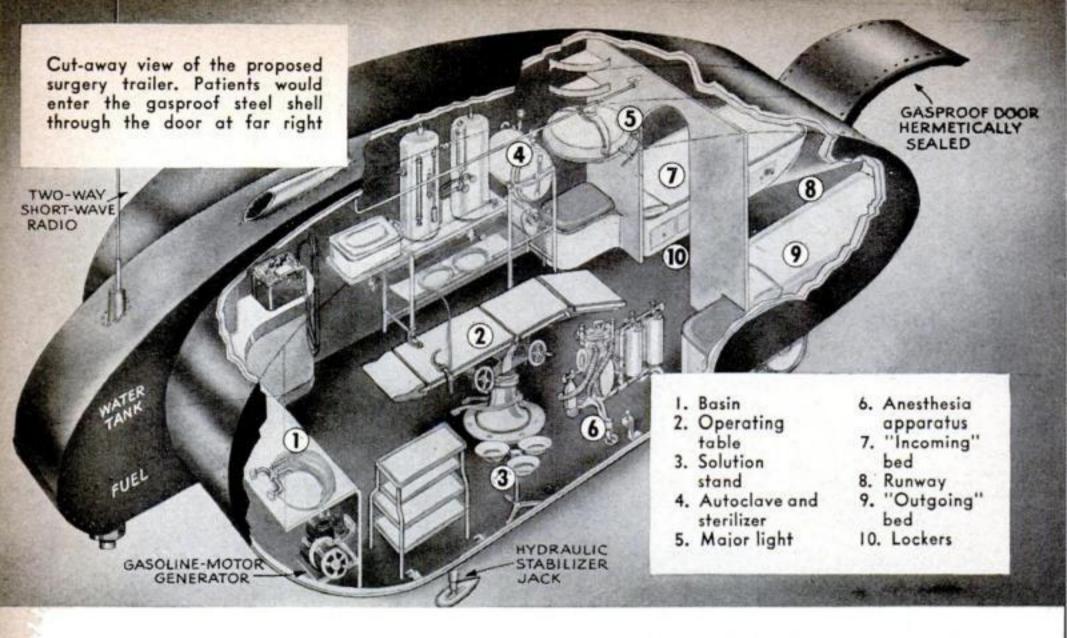


#### Sun-Lamp Bulb for Homes Has Built-In Reflector

et, a compact new health lamp emits artificial sunlight, including both ultraviolet and heat rays. The unit has a built-in reflector and a screen of special glass to remove unwanted rays. According to General Electric designers of the lamp, this eliminates any need for wearing goggles.

The "indoor sun bulb" consumes 275 watts of electricity, and operates on standard household alternating current of 110 to 125 volts. A hermetically sealed glass shell excludes dust and moisture to preserve the efficiency of the mirrorlike reflector. The bulb contains both a tungsten filament and a quartz mercury-arc tube. To conserve aluminum for national defense, the reflector contains only a negligible trace of the metal.

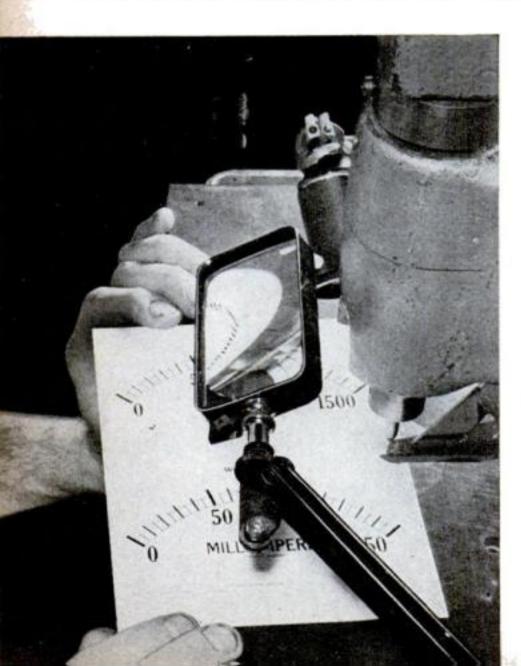




#### Operating Room Goes to Battle in Tank-Towed Armored Trailer

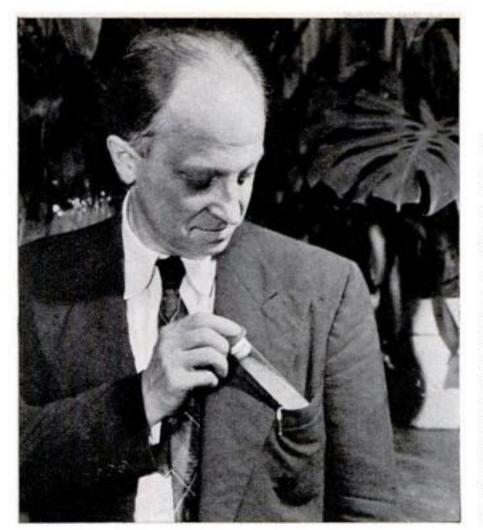
TOWED into battle by a war tank, an armored operating room for front-line casualties has been designed by C. J. Birtcher, a Los Angeles, Calif., manufacturer of surgical instruments. Emplacements cut in a hillside by bulldozers would hide such trailers from enemy view. Each one measures 35 feet long, is gasproof, contains complete surgical equipment, and has steel

walls capable of withstanding machine-gun bullets and shell fragments. Within, a two-man surgical team could handle as many as 30 cases an hour, safe against anything but a direct hit by bomb or shell. Similarly armored vehicles, of 16-man capacity, would bring in the casualties. As each arrives, he is placed on an "incoming" bed, anesthetized, and transferred to a hydraulic operating table. Following surgery, he is transferred to an "outgoing" bed to await transportation to a hospital in the rear by armored ambulances.



#### White Plastic Paint for Dials Keeps Instrument Faces Clean

NSTRUMENT dials with a new white plastic finish resist discoloration that would make them difficult to read in an emergency. Used in military tanks, aircraft, ships, and on industrial machinery, the dials are the result of five years of development under D. A. Young, Westinghouse engineer. An automatic spraying process first applies the plastic coating to metal dials. Markings then are added, in special printing inks, with accuracy of less than 1/5,000 of an inch from perfection. Finally, as at left, a workman with a magnifying lens punches tiny holes in the dials to align them on a machine that will cut them apart. Samples have been exposed to tropical and polar weather, biting salt vapors, and oil and tar smoke without harm.

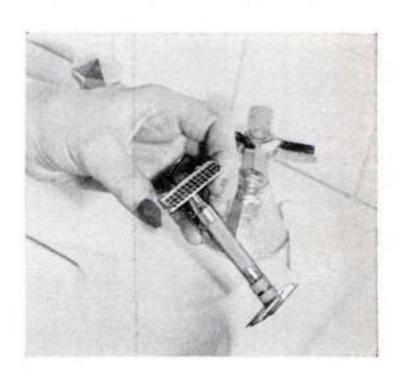


#### Garden in Test Tube Starts Orchids Growing from Seed

A POCKET-SIZE garden enables Dr. Justin Zender, New York City biochemist, to give orchids their start in life. It consists of a tightly stoppered test tube containing agaragar and several chemicals, in which he has planted from 50 to 100 of the almost microscopic seeds. These germinate in a month or two, but the plants remain in the test tube for six to 18 months. Then, transplanted with a platinum wire, they grow for two years in glass flasks, and finally in pots. It takes seven years, on the average, from seed to bloom. Dr. Zender employs a nutrient agar-agar solution worked out by Dr. L. Knudson, of Cornell University, pioneer in growing orchids successfully from seed by using a sterile medium. The test tube at left will yield reddish-violet orchids of a South American variety.

#### Magnet in Safety-Razor Handle Picks Up Blade from Basin

Handling a razor blade without nicking a finger becomes simple, with the introduction here of a safety razor manufactured in Sheffield, England. The base of the handle contains a tiny permanent magnet, only a fourth of an inch in diameter, but powerful enough to pick up a blade from the smooth surface of a wash basin, as at right. It represents one of the newest applications of recently developed alloys which have greater magnetic attraction than steel alone. The razor may be adjusted for either close or easy-going shaves.



#### Infrared Drying Lamp Bakes Paint on Autos

WHEN synthetic enamel is applied to a car, a new infrared or radiant heat lamp makes a speedy job of drying the finish. Wrinkling, sagging, and prolonged tackiness are halted by the penetrating rays, which, according to the maker of the appliance, bake the paint film from the inside out. Tungsten-filament bulbs used have sealed-beam mountings similar to those of automobile headlamps. Six are grouped within a hood, attached by an adjustable arm to a stand with casters, so that the rays may be directed upon any part of a car. The life of the bulbs is estimated at from 5,000 to 10,000 hours.



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# How

Someone years ago said, "War is for the general, an art; for the officer, a science; for the soldier, a trade."

No war agency demonstrates this more clearly than that greatest of modern weapons, air power. The fist of the air arm is the bomber, and the long-reaching arm defies fortifications, unfavorable terrain, and great expanses of sea when the time comes for the deadly punch to be delivered. In order to thwart aerial and ground opposition once these far-removed objectives are attained, the bombers fly by night more frequently than during the daylight hours, particularly when their missions involve the bombardment of stationary, well-defended sites such as cities, industrial areas, and wharfage.

Indeed, where the balance of air superiority is closely contested, where the air arms boast parity of quality, quantity, and flying personnel, day bombing of such objectives has proved too costly; except, perhaps, for sporadic, hit-and-run raids by fast fighter-bombers and dive bombers. Precision bombing of targets is abandoned in favor of widespread incendiary and demolition bombing on an indiscriminate scale calculated to destroy the morale of civilians in a "war of nerves."

Some rather interesting tactics are employed by the night bombers. Moonlight visitations are frequent because the clear definition of targets in the reflected light enables the bombardiers to use their bombing sights effectively, even from the high altitudes at which the defenders' antiaircraft forces them to fly. Furthermore, bright moonlight greatly nullifies the probing searchlight beams. On the darker nights, a favored practice is for the raiders to attempt lighting up the landscape with high-powered parachute flares. While this works in some instances, in just as many cases it is not successful. The

Planes for night combat must have about the same qualities as daytime fighters, with most emphasis on fire power and good landing behavior on blacked-out fields. One that fills the bill is the Republic YP-43, a single-engined, single-seat pursuit job shown in the drawing

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# Warplanes Fight at Night

flares tend to burst too high up and burn out before they drop low enough to reveal the objective; when they burst close enough to be effective the defenders can usually shoot them out.

Where the antiaircraft fire is particularly hot, incendiaries are used as markers. The fighter-bombers dive low enough to distinguish the target, relying upon their speed and maneuverability to foil the AA guns and searchlights, and drop thermite-oil bombs. The heavy and medium bombers higher up are then able to unload their eggs on the blazing targets. This, too, works exceedingly well for a while—until the fire brigades and civilians are organized to pounce upon and extinguish the incendiaries as they fall. When this happens, the attackers resort to a combination of demolition and fire bombs, hoping thereby to kill or frighten off the vigilantes on the rooftops or in the streets.

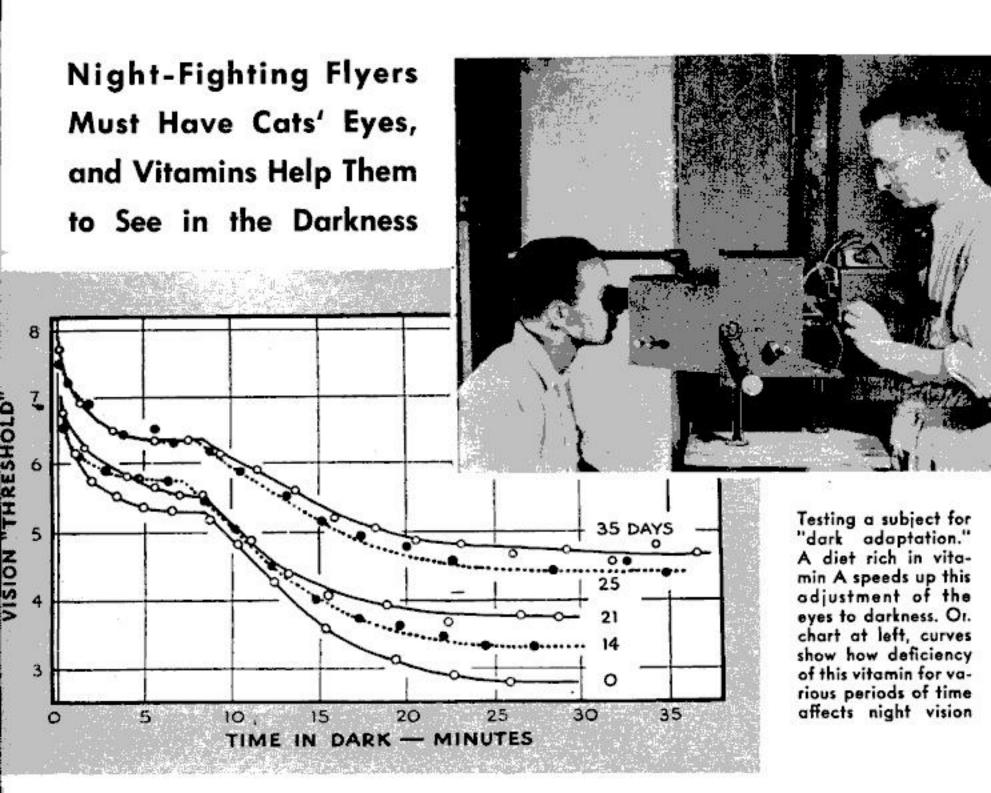
Pattern bombing from high-flying formations under radio control is another interesting and deadly technique. quency beams, much like those which guide our airliners through the night along the invisible airways, are projected by the attackers over the city or area to be bombed, and these are crossed over—directly above the chosen objective—by other beams directed on an angular bearing from points far removed from the transmitters of the guiding beams. The attacking pilots follow the latter beams from the time of take-off until they intersect the second, or marker beam, at which time they know themselves to be over the spot. The bombs are then released "in salvo," dumped en masse, from altitudes well above the reach of the defender's AA and searchlights.

Even this ingenious scheme can be thwarted, and the bombees exploit every countermeasure. With equally ingenious gadgets, they proceed to "scramble" the beams so that the enemy airmen receive a lot of static and no further guidance. The beams may also be "bent" in such a manner that the bombers are led through an open switch, as it were, and off course to some point over open country or water where the missiles can do little or no harm. To accomplish this, the defenders resort to the simple expedient of emitting a beam of their own, on the same frequency as the enemy's, to intersect his somewhere along the line. It may be readily understood, however, why the riddle of the night bomber is far too complex a problem to be permanently solved so easily. Because one of the principles of warfare—ground or aerial—is that the element of surprise must be continually sought by the offensive striking force, the night bomber is still the military "big stick."

But another axiom of war is that a new weapon is five times as hard to conceive and bring into successful operation as is the counterweapon to neutralize it. Through the combination of several interesting devices, the United States is well along with the solution of the problem of the night bomber at this writing. These defenses may be classified as direct and indirect. The only direct defense against the bombing plane is the interceptor plane, and it is most certainly the most successful neu-The indirect defenses may be considered as passive and active. Devices such as camouflage, blackouts, and even the balloon barrage go into the former category. For lack of space, let us consider the active measures.

The increasing effectiveness of antiair-craft is the result of the development of clever fire-control gadgets and of the stepped-up firing rate and longer reach provided by today's gun designers. These AA guns are of three general types: The rapid-firing cannon which throws shrapnel shells in the paths of high-flying bombers, the pom-poms or automatic shell cannon used to supplement the longer-range guns against raiders flying lower than 6,000 feet, and the machine gun for inside defense against low-flying craft in general and attack planes and dive bombers in particular.

Defenders manning the automatic guns can, with fair success, draw a bead on the enemy craft or throw up a curtain barrage in front of the raiders. But because too many corrections must be made for the high-flying bomber's speed, altitude, distance, and other factors, the men behind the heavy guns have to depend upon firecontrol instruments. These include the mechanical "ear" or detector, used to determine the direction of approach; the range-finder, through which the enemy plane is spotted and its altitude (in vertical yards) ascertained; and the predictor, which assimilates prior information and computes automatically and continuously the data (such as the plane's speed,



distance, drift, and recommended ballistic corrections) the gunners and cannoneers require before going into action and during the action. After sunset, the defenders are confronted by two enemies—their adversaries and the darkness. Searchlights are, of course, necessary to spot the raiders and permit the range-finder and predictor operators to carry on. A coördinating gadget known as a "comparator" is connected with both the "ear" and the lights. Supplied the approximate bearing of the approaching ships, the comparator aims the lights and moves them in systematically widening circles until the enemy is sighted.

The searchlight has its limitations, however. Ours are admittedly the finest in the world, emanate some 800,000,000 candlepower, but even these suns on wheels are not effective against craft flying higher than 12,000 feet. Anything between a half and full moon cuts down the beam proportionately. What the gun crew can't see they can't hit, unless their luck is running pretty high. And it takes more than luck to stop a bomber speeding through the blackness of three dimensions. The night fighter, aided by two remarkable electrical devices and the indirect defenses mentioned, is the ace that is neatly turning the trick.

Constant air patrol of one's coastlines is impractical because of the prohibitive number of aircraft and personnel required and the great expenditure of valuable fuel. Interception of enemy craft in the darkness is much too dependent upon chance, as is also the pilot's ability to keep hostile planes within view if and when they are engaged in combat. How is it accomplished?

The first essential is an efficient ground control and dispatching organization. The Army Air Corps and Signal Corps have developed a clever method involving the use of a new electric plotting board. These goings-on are, for obvious reasons, very much under wraps, but the British have developed a somewhat similar plan which it might be well to study.

The nerve center of their operations scheme is the Fighter Command Headquarters whose job it is to coördinate enemy information and dispatch the night fighters accordingly. The Isles are divided into "sectors," in each of which are one or more airdromes accommodating a fighter squadron. Each sector is furnished its own headquarters and operations room—a large room taken up almost completely by a scale



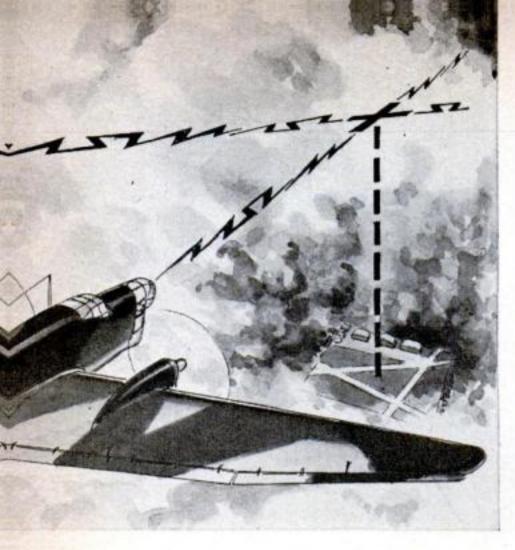
BLACKOUTS IN REVERSE have been proposed as a new wrinkle in antiaircraft defense. Under this scheme, searchlights and parachute flares would be used to produce a glare to blind enemy bombers

table map representing sections of the Isles and the surrounding sea area and enemy coasts on which an officer known as the "controller" plots the air action. Several junior commands called "groups" comprise a number of these sectors.

The scheme works this way: The radio locators—of which more will be said short-

ly—of a couple of the coastal stations of the Observer Corps detect a number of approaching bombers. Word is flashed to the Fighter Command. The controller here immediately advises group operations to order all the squadrons in the sectors within that particular group to "stand by," which means that the pilots are seated in their

85

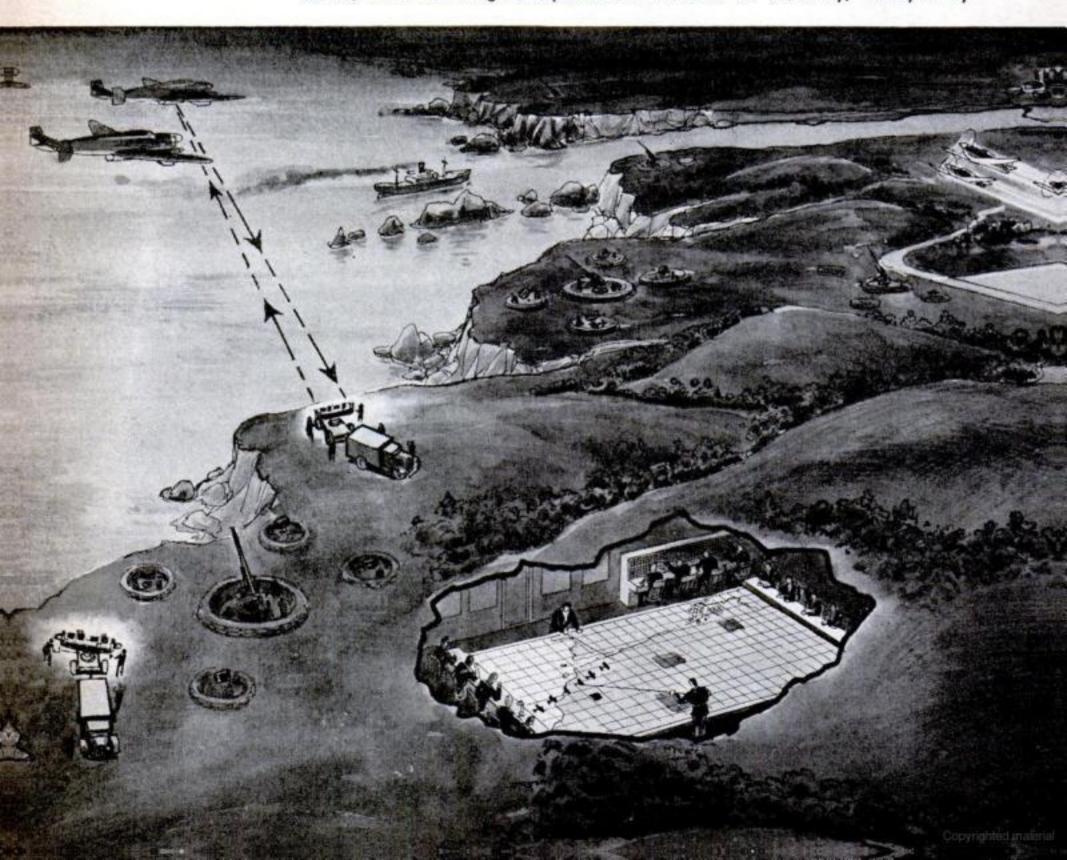




In pattern bombing, planes are guided by radio beams that cross above the target. Following one beam, the bomber dumps its eggs "in salvo" when it strikes the intersecting beam from another station

One of the devices that help fighter planes spot their prey in the dark is the "A-eye," in which the infrared rays from the engine of the enemy plane are made to cast an image on a fluorescent screen

HOW GROUND CONTROL CAN GUARD A COASTLINE, Radio locators set up along the shore spot approaching bombers and flash word to the control center, which warns fighter squadrons in the area to "stand by," ready to fly



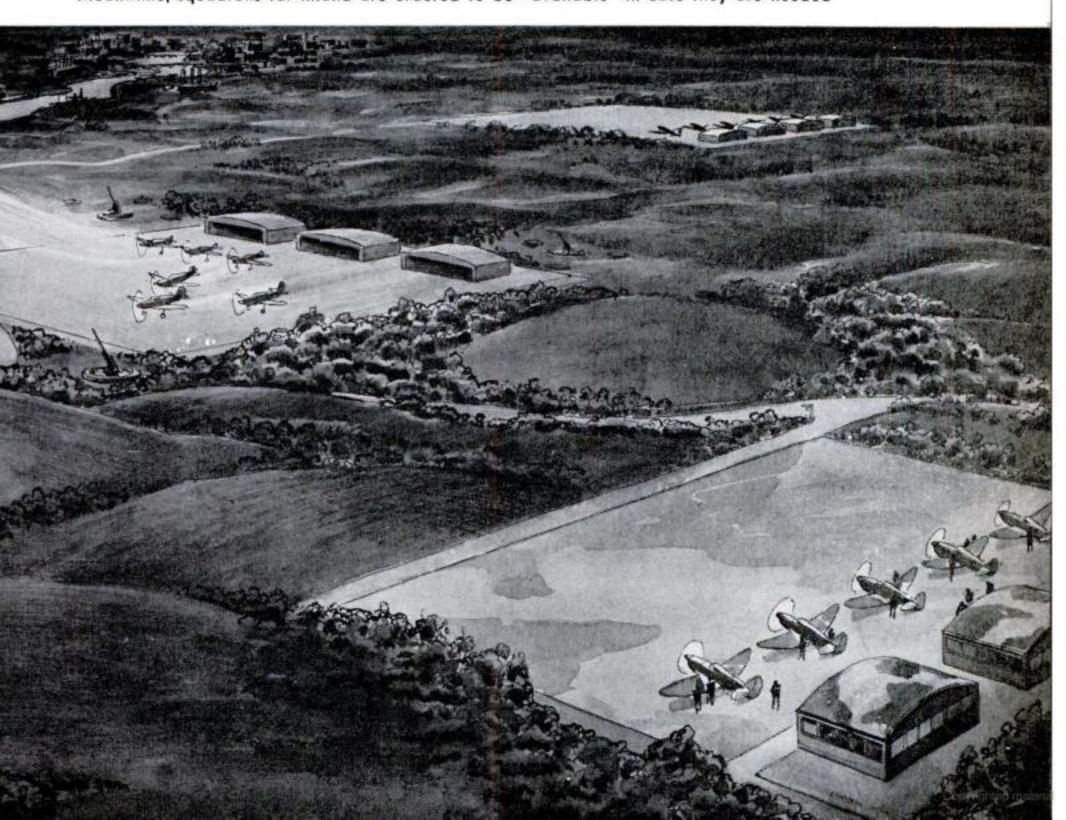
warmed-up fighters, ready to take off on signal. The fighters in the sector nearest, or on the line of the approaching raiders, are ordered up. Meanwhile, the squadrons in adjacent sectors stand by, and others under the group control are held "in readiness," with the pilots fully dressed and close by their ships. More of the squadrons farther inland are held "available," ready to take off within a few minutes of the order.

To keep from being caught off base, in the event of ensuing waves of bombers or a number of simultaneous raids at scattered points and so that the fighters aloft may be relieved before they run out of fuel and ammunition, operations are staggered. When the first squadrons are sent up, those in readiness are moved up to stand by; those held available are placed in a state of readiness; and others which have been released from duty are called up so as to be available. Controllers in the three respective operations rooms list the fighter units on blackboards according to the degree of their "alert." In this manner, each controller is able to tell at a glance just who is doing what.

From the moment the raiders are first reported, their course is traced on the huge table maps and progress is noted by moving markers along the course. Antiaircraft units and the balloon-barrage units are meanwhile advised of the enemy's whereabouts. As soon as the fighter unit which has been ordered aloft has gained altitude, the controller radios the squadron leader to pursue a "vector," or heading, by which his fighters will intercept the raiders. The controller often advises the leader what cruising speed and altitude to maintain. When the fighter-squadron marker and the enemy marker meet each other, the controller notifies the leader of the bombers' proximity. As soon as the bombers are sighted, the leader gives the "enemy sighted" signal. Success, obviously, depends upon the accuracy of the controller's information. The radio locator is so accurate that it not only determines the bombers' course but also their speed and altitude.

Operating on the well-known principle that radio waves, upon striking some obstacle, are reflected in much the same manner as echoing sound waves, the interesting

As fighters along the path of the approaching raiders are ordered up, those in adjacent sectors stand by, while units farther away are "in readiness" with their pilots on hand. Meanwhile, squadrons far inland are ordered to be "available" in case they are needed



gadget utilizes extremely short waves called "microwaves." Ultra-short waves provide a sharper echo. American airliners have, for some time, been using a terrainclearance indicator which operates on the same principle. The locator might be described as one of these absolute altimeters in reverse; instead of the waves being projected down to the ground and bouncing up to the plane, the locator's beam is focussed upward, hits the enemy plane, and bounces back to the ground. The time interval between emission of the beam and the return of its echo is measured electrically and translated into feet of altitude. Radio waves, unlike the sound waves on which the antiaircraft "ears" depend, travel at constant speed—the same speed as light waves, 186,000 miles per second.

Even more remarkable is another electrical contrivance which enables the pilots to spot the planes in the darkness. It is called the "A-eye" and utilizes infrared rays. Installation details may not be revealed at this time, but the general principle—which is well known to scientists the world over, and has been since 1934—is somewhat similar to that of television. There are two phases to its development.

Two highly sensitized screens are mounted

on the night fighter in such position that they may be used in conjunction with the reflector gunsight. The front screen, a thin metal plate coated with a layer of caesiated oxidized silver, is sensitive to infrared radiation to about 11,000 angstrom units-3,000 units above the visual limit. When the image, resulting from infrared radiation of the enemy plane's motor, is caught on this screen, it emits a stream of electrons therefrom. This electron image, in turn, shows upon a second screen—a plate coated with a fluorescent compound, employing the same principle as the X-ray fluoroscope-and is turned into a distinct image of high illumination. This, however, results in the showing of too tiny a target for high-speed combat

planes, and there was also the probability of a pilot shooting at a friendly ship. This condition led to the second phase of development. The "A-eye," fortunately, is sensitive to objects reflecting infrared rays as well as those radiating the rays, and an infrared searchlight was developed which was compact enough to be carried in a plane. When used in conjunction with the eye and sight, it permits the pilot to "lay" the whole plane, or more than one plane and be certain of its identity. This is all that is required, since the size of the enemy plane—indicated by the amount of space the image occupies in the reflector disk-reveals its distance away from the pilot. In addition to this device, we have a secret antiaircraft detector which works on the same principle.

One of the most interesting aspects of night defense is that involving the human element. The conditioning of airmen for night fighting has much to do with successful operations. The first task of the medicos is to carefully select pilots and gunners who are not subject to "night blindness." More than a few of the crack fliers, particularly those older than 25 years, whose vision proves adequate for daytime operations are found to have poor "dark

adaptation." This the process by which the eyes accustom themselves to darkness; common a phenomenon you experience when entering a theater from the bright daylight. If there happens to be little light on the screen at the time, it is somewhat difficult to find your seat. By the time you are ready to leave. however, there has taken place a change and you can see perfectly well. What happens is that the vision thresholds diminish gradually for about half an hour, after which time one's ability to see in the dark is at the maximum.

Conditioning of airmen is commenced immediately following the selection of those who are found to have adequate dark adaptation. They maintain a (Continued on page 220)



Camouflage: This worker is spraying the blades of a propeller with a paint that keeps it from reflecting light at night

## "Nerve Center" Guards New York

#### ARMY AIR CORPS SETS UP ELABORATE DEFENSE SYSTEM

MERICA'S most elaborate air-defense information center has just been completed in New York City. It is the best equipped in the world. Minute-by-minute reports from more than 6,000 field observers will enable Air Corps experts, working at tables that resemble pieces from a giant jig-saw puzzle, to plot the progress of enemy bombers and to direct the swift climb and attack of interceptor planes.

Even before the bombers reach the coast,

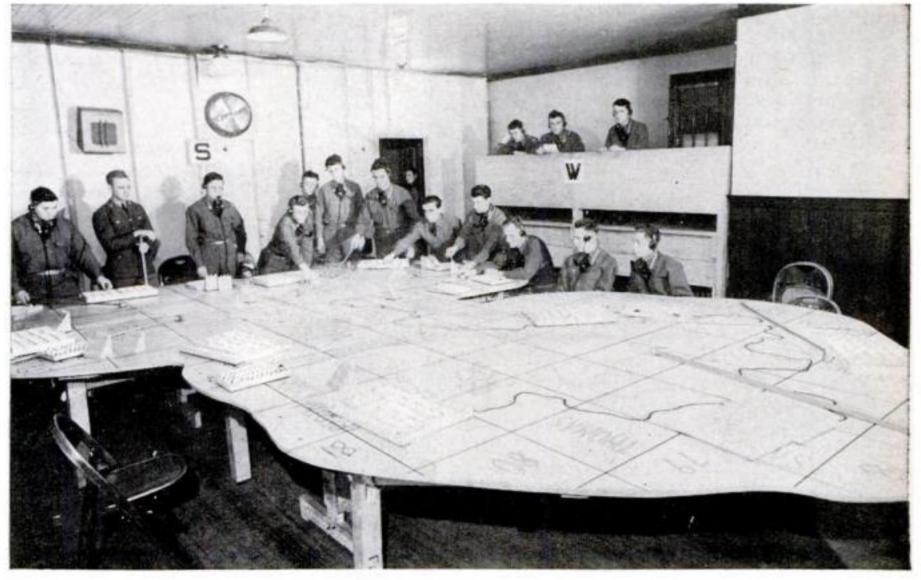


the Army's latest locator system will spot their position and, as soon as they wing inland, observers at five-mile intervals will flash in their reports—giving the type, number, height, and direction of the invading planes. As each flash reaches the New York nerve center, a marker, known as a "plotter's pip," will be placed on one of the jigsaw tables at a point that coincides with the position of the reporting observer. The table is called the "filter board" because

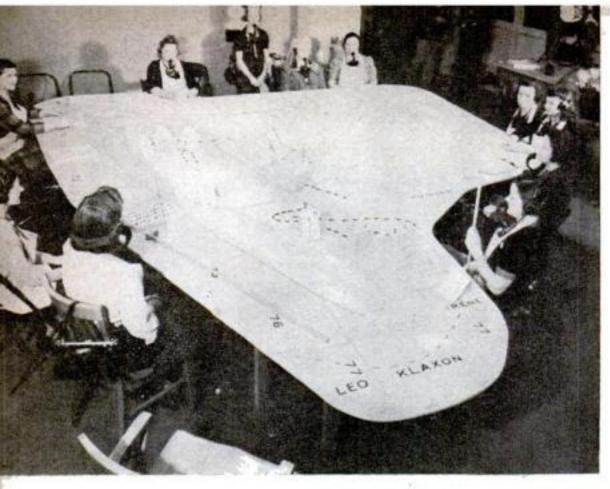
> here mistaken reports are filtered out. The men who place the markers on the board are designated "plotters."

> Behind the plotters stand the "evaluators." As soon as these trained Air Corps men decide the course the invaders are taking, they replace the pips with arrows—colored red, blue, or yellow, according to the time of the hour the reports are received. Instantly, "tellers," sitting in a balcony overlooking the board, speak into tele-

On the status board, the location and condition of every defense plane is recorded. Below is a filter board, a giant table map on which plotters place "pips" to indicate places from which bombers are reported



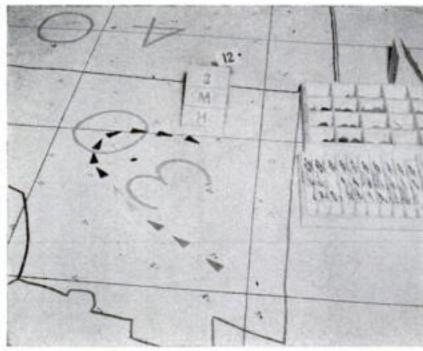
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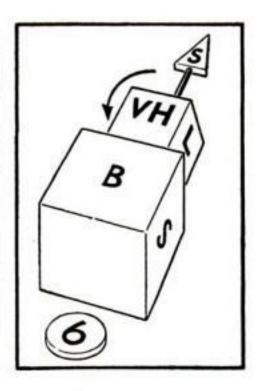


How experts would filter reports of enemy raiders and set in motion all the complicated machinery of aerial defense to protect a vital industrial area

This is an operations board. Here the course of the raiders is shown by arrowhead markers of blue, red, or yellow. The color of the markers is determined by the time of the hour a report was received

Close-up of a section of the board. A group of enemy planes, called a target, is given a number which appears on a block on the board





phones and similar arrows appear on a similar board in an adjoining room. This is the "operations board" from which final decisions are made.

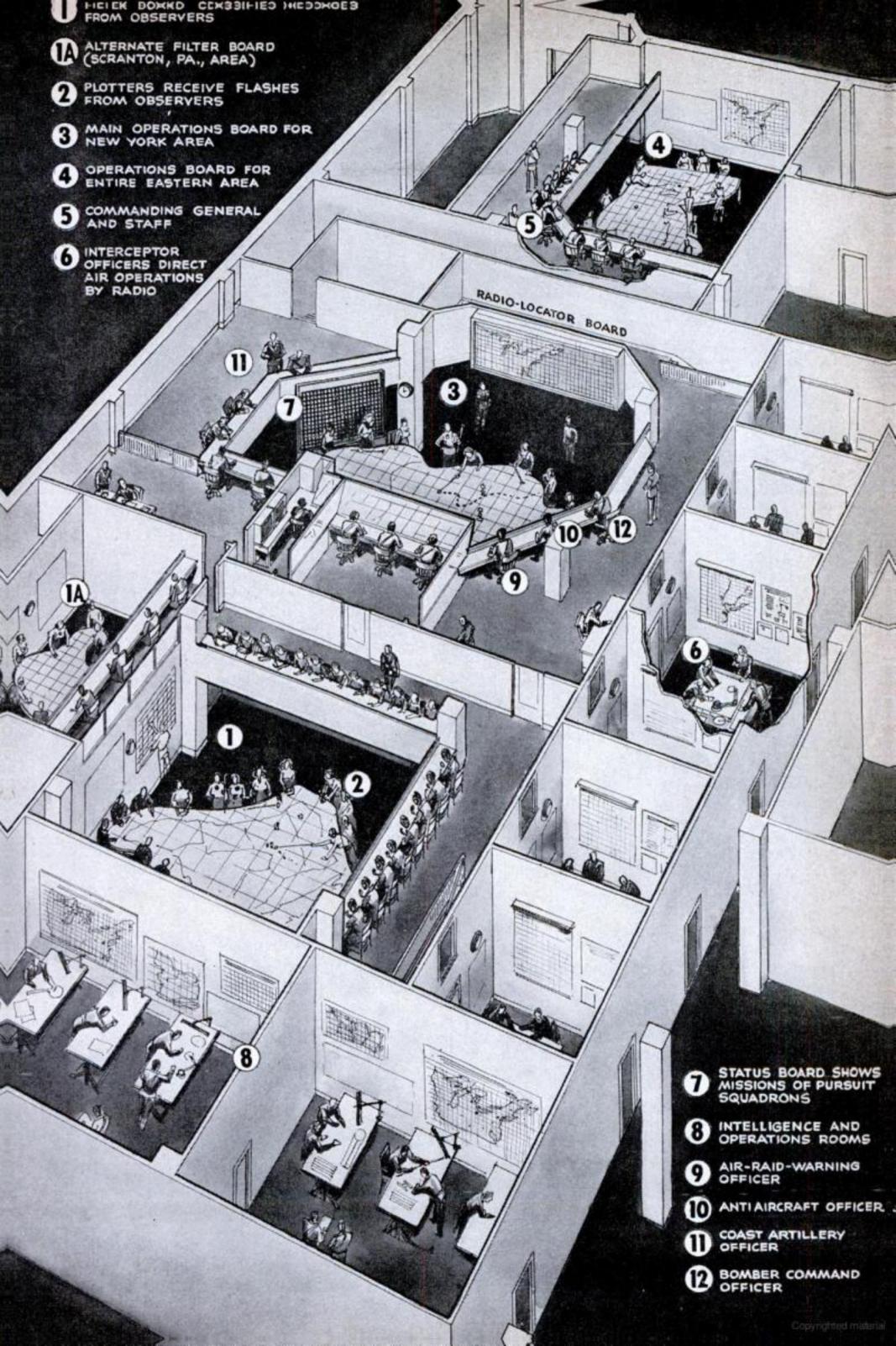
There follows a swift succession of events. In a soundproof balcony overlooking the board, the controller, flanked by a pursuit officer and a radio control officer, assigns the invading "target" to one or more pursuit squadrons. In a matter of seconds, the complicated machinery of aerial defense is in full motion. Even before the interceptor planes begin skyrocketing up from the air field, pursuit officers in one of the six interceptor offices at the center are plotting the best course for engaging the enemy. These officers, in constant radio contact with the fighting planes, direct the whole attack from the ground. When plotting their navigation charts, they use colored pencils, changing every five minutes to coincide with changes in the color of the arrows on the operations board.

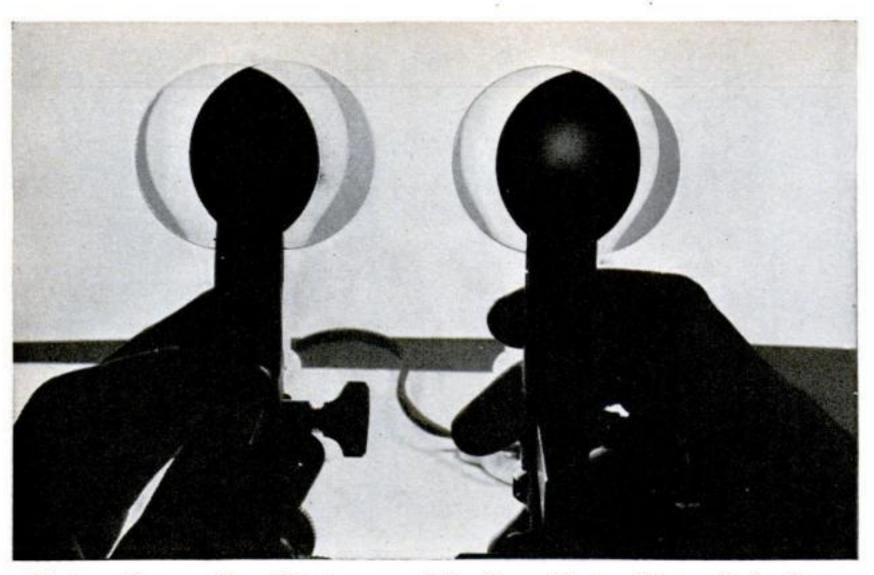
While this activity is going on, the civil air-raid warden is flashing out warnings to communities in the path of the attack; members of the intelligence division are

"Six bombers, flying very high, seen here, heading that way," is the information packed onto this plotter's pip. The disk gives the number; the cube, type of plane; five-sided block, the altitude; arrow, direction; letter on arrow, if seen or heard

noting down details of the raid for later study; officers of the First Interceptor Command, watching a third board in another room, are keeping track of developments and coördinating activity throughout an area that extends from Maine to below Cape Hatteras and from the Atlantic Coast as far west as Minnesota.

This vast area will be safeguarded by 13 information centers, each in a major city. Every center will have an auxiliary station ready to take over in less than eight minutes if the main center is destroyed or disabled. In New York, for example, is located the auxiliary filter board for Scranton, Pa. In all parts of the country, air defense nerve centers, similar to the one in New York City, are under construction. In the near future, between 30 and 40 will stand guard, fully equipped for emergencies.





Coke, Lime, Air, Water, and Iodine Make New Polarizer

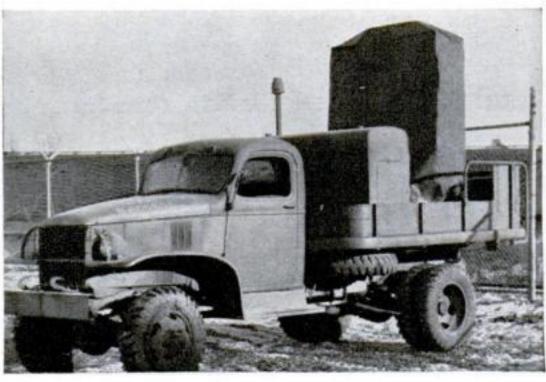
MADE from such simple ingredients as coke, lime, air, water, and iodine, a new light-polarizing material, developed by Edwin Land, Boston scientist, uses individual molecules instead of crystals to line up light vibrations. Besides being virtually

colorless, it transmits a third again as much light as earlier polarizing sheets, and at the same time cuts off more light when two sheets are turned at right angles to each other. In this position, a 100-watt bulb burning behind them is entirely invisible.

Power plant and floodlights on truck, above, provide eyes for night flyers. Right, covered over for dash to field

#### Mobile Floodlights Illuminate Emergency Landing Fields

PORTABLE floodlights, mounted on powerful, fourwheel-drive trucks, and equipped with hoods that prevent enemy flyers from seeing them, have been designed at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, for illuminating emergency fields for night take-offs and landings. Each truck carries six floodlights.



POPULAR SCIENCE

### Priorities Hit Your Home

#### AND BRING A CROP OF SUBSTITUTES FOR WAR METALS





Metal washing-machine agitators like the one at the left, above, will be replaced by plastics. The new product, seen at the right, is said to be lighter, smoother, and less subject to corrosion

#### By JOHN WATSON

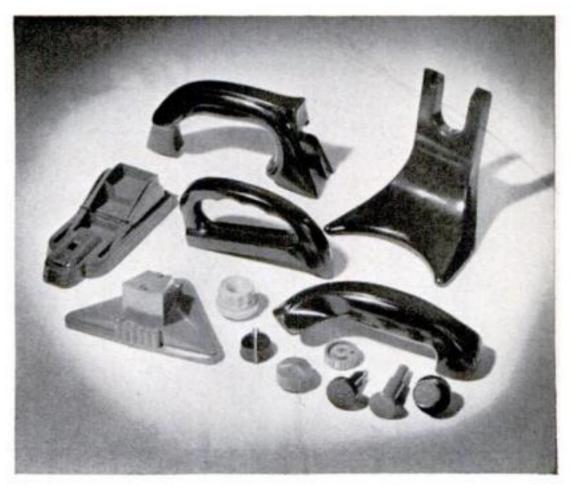
THE mounting production of bombs, bullets, shells, planes, ships, guns, rifles, tanks, and trucks has fashioned a chain, each link of which is forged of a different substance, across the normal course of American manufacturers of civilian products, forcing them to detour into strange and challenging by-roads.

Such strategic materials as aluminum, magnesium, nickel, and synthetic rubber are under the direct control of the Director of Priorities of the Office of Production Management. On the growing Priorities Critical List are such metals as tin, tungsten, zinc, brass, bronze, vanadium, various alloys of steel, and Monel metal—an alloy of nickel, copper, iron and manganese, resembling nickel.

These facts impinge directly or indirectly on the life of every American, whether a housewife

Plastics will make their appearance in fittings for more and more household appliances. There are 13 main types of plastics available and some 160,000,000 pounds are used annually in Maine, a financier in New York, an industrialist in Pittsburgh, or an automobile dealer in Idaho. They are also a powerful shot in the arm to American inventive ability.

Exhibit A in this round-up is aluminum, the metal of a thousand and one civilian uses: cooking utensils, automobiles, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, washing ma-



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chines, recording disks, foil for cigarettes and cigars, insulation, caps and tubes for tooth-pastes and shaving creams, women's clothing accessories—to name just a few. A pound used to cost as little as a package of cigarettes, and the annual production in the United States approximates 400 million pounds.

A few months ago, the Government began to clamp down on the metal, but it was still believed that non-defense users might get 50 percent of their normal requirements this year. The O.P.M., for instance, decided that only one or two aluminum ice trays might be installed in the new refrigerators, depending on the size of the units. But there was no indication of all-out restriction.

Now observe what has happened. The needs of the British and the demands of national defense have increased beyond all anticipation. One single item which put an entirely new urgency on the problem was the development of the huge B-19 heavy bomber. Each B-19 bomber requires 80,000 pounds of aluminum.

William L. Batt, Deputy Director of the O.P.M., stated recently that the whole available supply of aluminum will be needed for defense purposes in 1942. None will be left for civilian or even indirect military requirements. If the B-19 bomber becomes a mass-production tactical weapon, the aluminum requirements for 1942 may be 1,400,000,000 pounds, by his estimate.

The Aluminum Company of America, which has been the sole producer of aluminum ingot, is engaged in a \$200,000,000 expansion program. Reynolds Metals Com-

pany is spending \$35,000,000 on plants which will furnish a second supply source of virgin aluminum. Yet these expansions are not considered sufficient to care for the requirements of the defense program. Thus the aluminum situation, which only a few months ago was acute but not critical, has reached the point where the Government is considering a house-to-house campaign for old pots and pans.

In May of this year, the Government took over complete control of all nickel supplies in a move to curtail drastically the amount of the metal being used for other than defense purposes. Almost all of the United States supply of nickel comes from Canada, which produces 85 percent of the world's output. In May about 15,500,000 pounds were available, the largest amount ever supplied to American industry in one month. Yet the total demand of defense and civilian industry was estimated at 21 million pounds.

In spite of the increased imports it was estimated that the shortage for this calendar year would amount to 45 million pounds, and that while there would be sufficient nickel for defense needs the civilian industry would have to go short. This illuminates one of the problems of the American manufacturer in finding substitutes for civilian articles. Stainless steel suggests itself, as a substitute for aluminum cooking utensils, but nickel is an essential part of heat-resistant stainless steel.

Tin, while on the priorities critical list, has not reached the status of an emergency, but there has been considerable discussion on the feasibility of de-tinning cans and of

#### WHAT IT TAKES TO BUILD A BATTLESHIP



A LOT OF MATERIAL goes into the making of a battleship like the U.S.S. Washington. The 15 new battle wagons for our two-ocean navy will make a big dent in our available supplies

Steel	52,000,000	pounds
Copper	2,022,000	"
Tin	82,000	**
Zinc	1,030,000	"
Nickel	796,000	"
Wood	321,000	Bd. Ft.
Rubber	160,000	pounds
Cordage	11,000	"
Cotton	55,000	"
Aluminum	952,000	**
Mica	250	"

Standard Displacement	35,000 tons
Length	
Beam	108 feet
Mean Draft 26 fee	t 8 inches
Main Guns	9 16-inch
Aircraft	3
Designed Speed	27 knots
Designed Horsepower	115,000

#### SUBSTITUTIONS

methods other than the use of tin in coating steel containers for the preservation of food. Besides this use, for which 35,000 to 40,000 long tons of tin are used annually in the United States, the metal is used in the manufacture of automotive vehicles, in bearings, solders, bronzes, and gun metals.

A committee of the National Academy of Sciences has estimated that 12,000 tons of tin might be recovered annually by the de-tinning of used cans. But this is a costly and laborious process and should only be attempted, the committee recommended, in the event of emergency where conservation of tin was desirable without thought of cost. In the meantime, can manufacturers informed the O.P.M. that a tenpercent reduction in the weight of tin coating of cans could be made safely for about 95 percent of all tin-can uses. It is estimated that 5,000 to 10,000 tons of tin a year could be saved by a tenpercent reduction in weight of coating.

The Union Carbide and Carbon Company has produced, as a substitute for tin coating of cans, a vinyl resin lacquer. Lacquer coatings already are in use for dry packs such as tooth and talcum powders and tobacco. Some paint manufacturers are changing from tin-plated to terne-plated cans. Terne plate is made of tin and lead—requiring less tin than tin plate. Many foods can be packed in a transparent sheeting made from a rubber derivative.

Molybdenum, a metallic element of the chromium group, is being used to some extent as a substitute for nickel and tungsten in steel. Tungsten has a military use in the manufacture of armor-piercing projectiles, armor plates, and valves for internal-combustion engines.

Molybdenum alloys are being developed to replace tungsten for hard machine tools and tool makers have been asked to use molybdenum tool steels or other alloys whenever practical. The United States produces most of the world's supply of molybdenum. Molybdenum high-speed steels can be substituted for tungsten steels for most uses.

The automobile industry has long since undertaken to find substitutes for the metals on the restricted lists. Chrysler has been using straight molybdenum steel for some time, while General Motors is reported to be making a shift from nickel to molybdenum steels. Makers now using nickel as an alloy in valve, gear, axle, and transmission parts will be able to use molybdenum



AUTOMOBILES: Molybdenum or chrome steel replaces nickel steel; plastics supplant die-cast zinc or aluminum; cast-iron pistons, brake drums



BICYCLES: Frames, formerly made of steel tubing, will be of a laminated plastic plywood. Plastic accessories, and probably tires of synthetic rubber



CAMERAS: Your next camera will be likely to have a case of plastic instead of aluminum. And the film in it will be wound up on a spool of plastic.



CHEWING GUM: No more tinfoil or aluminum-foil wrappers. Your favorite flavor will be kept fresh in a plastic wrapper, or one of paraffined paper



DINETTE TABLES: You won't see so many steel table tops now. They'll be made of light, strong laminated wood, coated with water-resistant finishes



FLY SCREENS: The ingredients of bronze are too scarce to waste on the job of keeping out flies. Windows and doors will have screening of plastic



KITCHEN CABINETS: Wood, almost driven out of this field, will stage a come-back, releasing a lot of steel needed for tanks, guns, and warships



RANGES AND HEATERS: The fancy chromium and nickel-steel trim formerly seen in the modern kitchen is to give way to decorations of cast resin



POTS AND PANS: Enamelware and heat-resisting glass will replace aluminum. Cast-iron skillets and roasters will also come back into general use



REFRIGERATORS: Ice trays will be made of tinned copper, steel, or plastic instead of aluminum. Handles and other fittings made of injection plastic



FOOD PACKING: Tin will be saved by coating cans with lacquer wherever possible. Many foods will be packed in a transparent sheeting made of rubber



VACUUM CLEANERS: Domes will be made of injection plastic instead of die-cast aluminum. Hose fittings, nozzles, and other parts also of plastics



WASHING MACHINES: Plastic agitators are cheaper than aluminum, and are said to be better. Clutch handles are of plastic instead of die-cast zinc

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or chrome, after the necessary retooling and designing.

Zinc die castings, according to expectations of experts, virtually will disappear from 1942 models. Cast iron is being used as a substitute, even in carburetors, where diecasting has resulted in important savings in machining and drilling. Aluminum in brake cylinders and pistons is being replaced with cast iron for pistons and cast or powdered iron for brake cylinders. Plastic engine baffles in place of aluminum are now being service-tested, not only for automobiles but also in airplane construction. Laminated reënforced plastic material is

being tried out for automobile bodies and structural parts of planes.

Experiments are being made with molded plastics as a substitute for zinc die castings. They are also being tried for carburetor bowls. There is a current shortage in zinc caused by the demand for this material for the making of cartridge brass. The production has been increased but the demand, as in the case of aluminum, is greatly ahead of it.

Three of the larger

car makers already have produced sample cast-iron pistons and have placed orders for electroplating equipment with which to tinplate the iron pistons.

The Ford Motor Company has announced it has made manufacturing changes which have resulted in savings of 80 percent in nickel, 50 percent in aluminum, and 50 percent in zinc. Straight chromium steel is being used in place of nickel chromium steel on bright metal trim; chromium molybdenum steel is being used instead of nickel bearing steel for transmission and differential gears.

Aluminum engine pistons have been replaced by steel pistons. Eight out of ten tractor parts now made out of aluminum will be changed to iron and other ferrous material. Aluminum time gears are being replaced by steel and bakelite gears. Aluminum cylinder heads, brake wheel pistons, valve-chamber covers, and distributor bodies are replaced by cast, die-cast, or powdered iron.

Zinc metal die-cast trimming, steeringpost hub and brackets are being replaced by steel stampings. Instrument-panel grilles, horn buttons, and interior metal trims are being replaced by plastics, and in some cases by bright-finished steel. Magnesium, being released by the Government only for defense purposes, is no longer used on any Ford commercial products.

Plastics comprise a vast and almost untapped reservoir of possible substitutes for defense metals. They are made synthetically of simple raw materials abundantly available in this country. As long as coal, oil, limestone, wood, and water are available, most of the plastics can be synthesized, although in commercial production many materials are now used as the start-

ing point of manufacture. Soybeans are a source of plastic materials, and coffee beans may become more important as a source of plastics than for beverage purposes.

Manufacturers of articles for civilian needs are turning to plastics to take the place of metals on the priorities lists. The refrigerator industry is using plastics in place of aluminum as a lining for refrigerator walls and doors, and for ice trays. Vacuum-cleaner manufacturers are turning to plas-

tics for hose fittings, nozzles, and end plates in cylinder-type cleaners. In one cleaner, seventeen sweeper and accessory parts are molded of resins.

Radio broadcasting companies, motionpicture companies, and other concerns which make permanent recordings on aluminum disks are investigating a substitute in a glass-base recording blank covered with an acetate coating. It is hoped that this new disk will release about a million pounds of aluminum a year for defense purposes.

A pump formerly made of metal parts now is made entirely of a phenolic type of plastic. Gunstocks formerly shaped out of walnut are being pressed from powdered plastics, which provide a stronger stock in a shorter time and at a lower cost.

American industry has always been able to meet any demands imposed upon it. New emergencies create new ideas; new ideas create new products; and new products create new markets. There is no reason to suppose that the chain of cause and effect which has functioned so effectively in the past will not continue to function in the future.



Products as varied as perfumes and lubricating oil are packaged in synthetic resin. Increased use of plastics will save needed metals



Dr. McCay and his assistant, Gladys Sperling, examine some of the rats he tests for diet and longevity in work he has been doing at Cornell eight years

# Stay Hungry Live Longer

Tests with 2,500 Rats Show That What You Eat Isn't So Important an Aid to Longevity as How Much

#### By EDWIN TEALE

F ANY man in America can look at your dinner plate and tell you how long you are likely to live, it is Dr. Clive M. McCay, of Cornell University. For eight years, he has been carrying on pioneer researches in diet and longevity. Hungry people, Dr. McCay has found, live longest—if they are not too hungry.

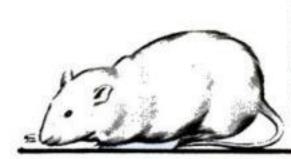
A diet that contains all needed essentials in reduced quantities is, next to long-lived ancestors, the greatest aid to longevity. Partial starvation, keeping you thin but not too thin, will add years to your life. This is the conclusion of experiments with more than 2,500 white rats at Dr. McCay's Cornell laboratory. These animals were chosen for the re-



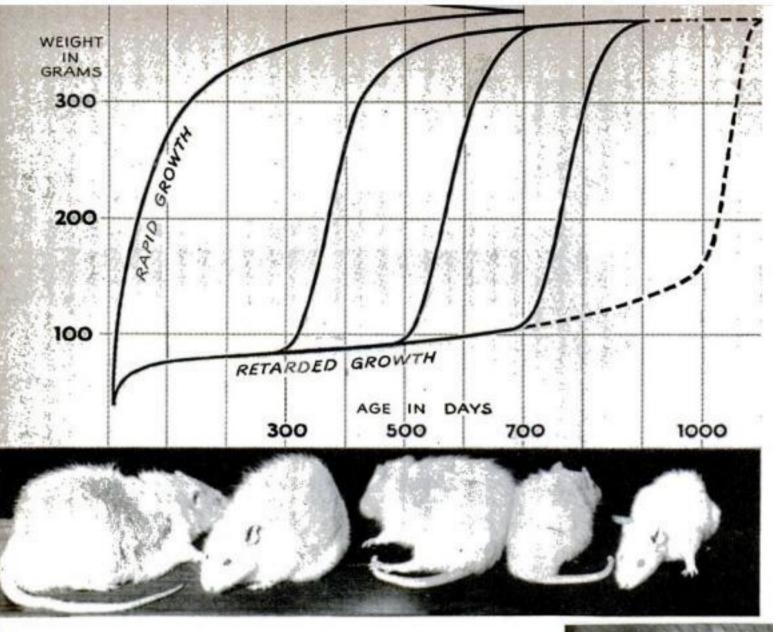
RAT LIFE IS A SPEED-UP OF HUMAN LIFE Ten days in the life of a rat is equal to about a year in a man's. So in 800 days, scientists can see the results of 80 years of diet in a human



RATS THAT LIVE HIGH, eating all they want, are old and ready to die at the age of 700 days, which equals the proverbial "three score and ten" years allotted to humans



RATS THAT GO HUNGRY, receiving only half the normal food ration in a balanced diet, are still going strong at 700 days. Underfeeding is found to slow down the vital functions and so prolong life



Retarded rats gain in weight and "grow up," as chart shows, when fed excess calories. This occurs even after they have attained an age equivalent to that of a man 80 years old. One underfed rat lived to an age of 1,430 days

To determine whether exercise has an effect on longevity, rats go into revolving barrels. Electric charge in wire screens at ends shocks those that try to climb on them to get a ride

searches because they react to diet in the same manner as humans and because, roughly, ten days in the life of a rat is equal to one year in the life of a man.

All the animals were fed a basal diet consisting of casein, cornstarch, cod-liver oil, yeast, sugar, lard, alfalfa-leaf meal, liver, and roughage in the form of ground cellulose. The rats that received only half the rations ordinarily fed lived longest. Their starvation diet slowed down the vital activity of the body. There were fewer white corpuscles in their bloodstream, and their hearts beat only 300 palpitations a minute instead of the 400 beats of the wellfed rat. Thus, living more slowly, saving energy, the underfed animals had increased longevity. Their brains, however, seemed more alert. Brain activity speeded up while body activity slowed down.

In one experiment, which ended in a surprising discovery, 200 middle-aged rats were divided into four groups of 50 each. All had been raised in the same room under identical conditions. All had been fed the same basal diet, supplying essential elements in reduced quantities. All were approximately 40 years old, in human-life terms, when the test began. In the experiment, one group was fed excess calories in the form of sugar, another in the form of starch, a third in the form of whole-milk powder, and the fourth group in the form of liver.

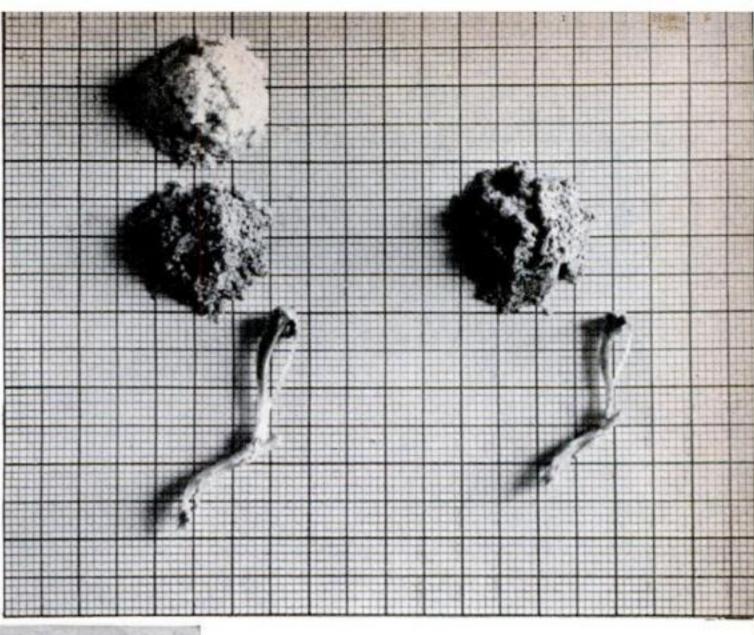
What Dr. McCay wanted to know was whether excess in one kind of food will shorten life more than excess in other kinds or, to put it another way, whether there are



"longevity foods" that will add to the life span of those who eat them. The test gave a negative answer to both questions. All four groups lived approximately the same length of time. And all the animals died much sooner than they would have if they had continued on reduced rations. Overeating, no matter what you eat, affects longevity adversely.

A by-product of the test, however, was the discovery that animals which received their excess calories in milk or liver remained fertile twice as long as those that overate in sugar or starch. The former Leg bone shown at left is that of a rat fed a basal diet plus extra calories, compared with similar leg bone of a rat that was retarded by receiving only the basal diet. Amount of food rationed to each shown above the bones

Every rat has his rood cup which is sterilized after use. Carefully measured food, put in individual containers, is carried to them in the rack by Dr. McCay's laboratory assistants





were still fertile at 600 days; the latter were sterile at 300.

Other questions answered by the Cornell experiments are: Does the protein content of the diet affect longevity? Does roughage play an important role? Is exercise a factor? During the eight years he has been carrying on his researches, Dr. McCay reports, he has not found a single indication that a high or low-protein diet is a factor of any importance in longevity. Previously, many scientists had been of the opinion that a high-protein diet, such as would be produced by consuming meat, shortened

the span of life. Exercise, likewise, according to the evidence of Dr. McCay's experiments, plays only a minor role. Among the 3½ tons of food given the Cornell rats annually, roughage—in the form of bran or ground cellulose—has been added in varying quantities to the diet of different groups. Such additions produced no noticeable effects on longevity.

A question Dr. McCay is often asked is: If partial starvation increases the span of life, why are not the Chinese, who have been underfed for generations, the longestlived race on earth? The answer is that their restricted diet lacks essential elements. The underfed rats at Cornell receive carefully balanced rations that meet the needs of health. Although these animals remain small when fed only half the normal quantity of food, they are in perfect health. At the end of 800 or even 1,000 days—the equivalent of 80 or 100 years of human life -these retarded rats will grow up and attain almost full size if they are fed increased calories. The Methuselah of the Cornell laboratory was one underfed rodent with a life span of 1,430 days. It lived as long, proportionately, as a man would be reaching the age of 143 years.

So important is Dr. McCay's work on diet and longevity considered that the Rockefeller Foundation recently granted \$60,000 for the continuation of his researches. His findings, to date, he sums up by revising an old health adage:

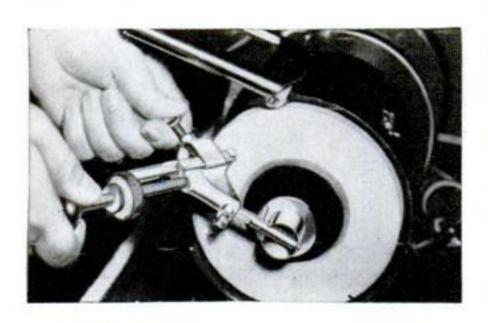
"Eat what you ought to eat first; then eat what you want to eat—but not too much of it!"

# New Tools

REVERSIBLE AND INTERCHANGEABLE BLADES adapt the screw driver shown below for use with either slotted-head or recessed-head screws. One end of each blade is ground to fit each type of screw head, and the blades slip into a socket in the shockproof plastic handle. Blades and handles come in varying sizes to fit almost any size of screw. A tamperproof compression spring holds blades in place.



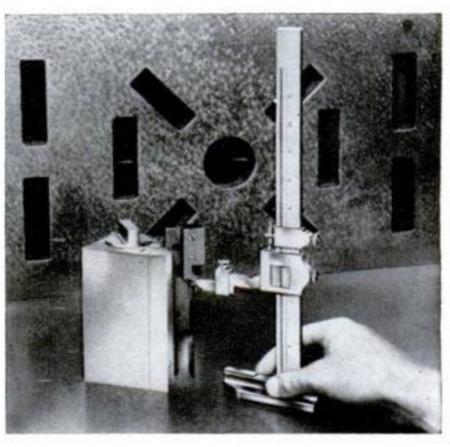
GRINDING DULL OR BROKEN DRILLS accurately in a few seconds' time is easy with a tool recently placed on the market. Fitting all bench grinders and polishing heads, the device handles all drills from 3/32" to ½" in size. It is indexed so that even the most inexperienced workman can grind a proper point on a drill, and its construction is such that the drill can be cooled at any time during the operation without removing it from the holder.



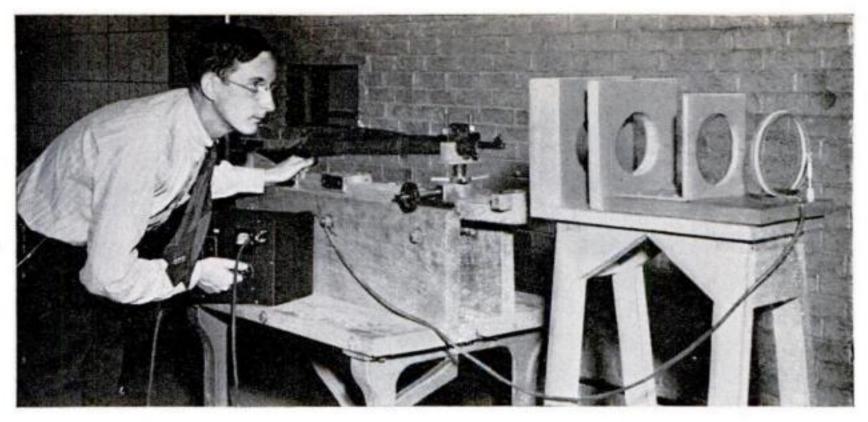


FINISHING OPERATIONS on wood, metal or plastic are simplified with the band sander above. Its table tilts a 45-degree angle for beveling, and bands in any width up to 1" are available. It is designed to run at 1,750 r.p.m. with motors of 1/6 to 1/4 horsepower, but step pulleys may be used for higher or lower speeds.

A NEW MAGNETIC TOOL for holding iron or steel work up to 1¾" in diameter is only 2½" wide, 3¼" high and 6¾" long. Of permanent-magnet type, it has a switch which permits work and tool to be held firmly in place for grinding or other operations, to be partially released for positioning, or to be completely released, depending on the path of the magnetic flux.

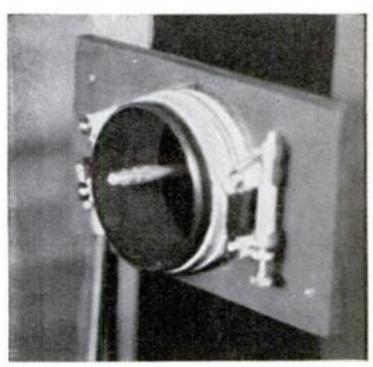


POPULAR SCIENCE



#### Radio Target Clocks Rifle Bullets in Arms Manufacturer's Tests

MEASURING the speed of rifle bullets that are traveling twice as fast as sound is being accomplished in a Bridgeport, Conn., arms laboratory with a radio timing device. The bullet leaves the muzzle of a rifle, traveling about 2,500 feet a second, and passes through two hooplike openings formed of coils with a balanced radio circuit attached to each. As the lead bullet passes successively through these coils, the electrical balance of the circuit is upset. This produces impulses which actuate a delicate timing device called a chronoscope, which records the split-second interval between the passage of the bullet through the first and second coil, making it easy to compute the exact speed of the projectile.



A bullet passing through the first of two coils that gauge its speed. In the upper picture, a research man is firing the rifle



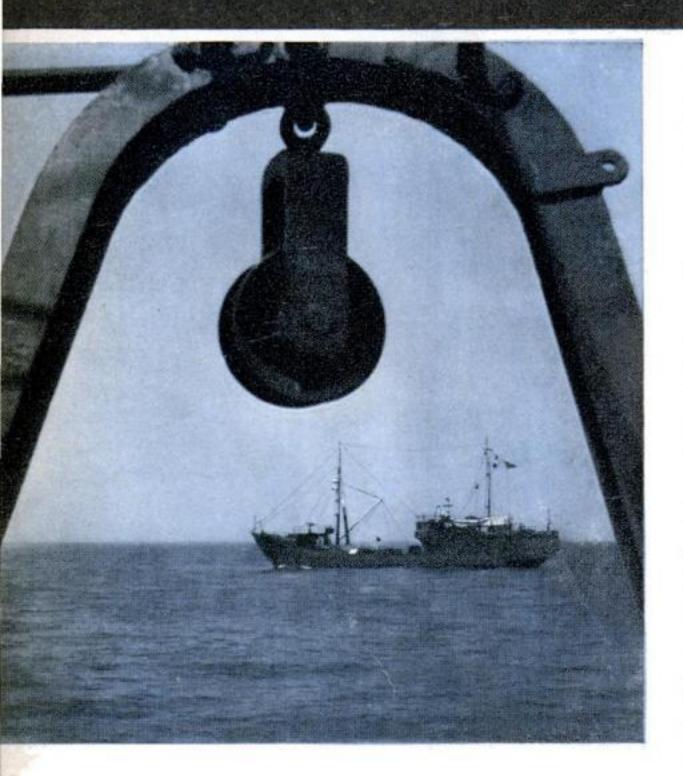
#### Silent Sound Truck Presents Imitation of Northern Lights

A "SILENT SOUND TRUCK," recently introduced in New York City, gains attention by means of an artificial aurora borealis. A revolving crystal ball, mounted on top of the advertising truck, reflects the light from ten colored spotlights and two speconstructed airport spotlights. Current is supplied to the colored lights, with a total capacity of 100,-000 candlepower, by a gasoline-driven generator in the truck. Loudspeakers can be used to supplement the lights.

101

# Fighting the Submarine Mine

#### HOW NAVIES COMBAT A DEADLY SEA WEAPON



HE principle of the submarine mine was invented by Sergeant Bushnell of the American Revolutionary Army over 160 years ago. Bushnell was the inventor of a submarine boat called the Turtle, but before he could make this boat a practical weapon of war, he had to prove the possibility of exploding gunpowder under water with destructive effect, which he succeeded in doing. Bushnell therefore was the originator, not only of the torpedo boat, both surface and submerged, but also of the submarine mine.

Mining in war is for the purpose of denying the navigable seas to the ships of an enemy. Its ends are both offensive and defensive. Offensive mining is resorted to for closing the coasts of an enemy and his harbors to the passage of ships. Defensive min-

One of the U.S. Navy's coastal mine sweepers, framed in the sweeping gear of another vessel designed for clearing channels of enemy mines of all varieties

#### By YATES STIRLING, JR., Rear Admiral, U.S.N., Retired

ing has as its object to keep enemy ships at a distance from our own coasts and harbors.

The hulls of ships have always been most vulnerable to underwater explosions. It has been found impractical to protect the underwater hulls of ships as is done to the abovewater sides, through heavier plating and armor. A mine explosion today that blows a large hole in a ship usually accomplishes its destruction.

Therefore all nations at war are most concerned over the menace of submarine mines to their ships, and consequently they have organized their navies to combat this danger. Every nation has a specialized body of men whose sole duty

is both to combat mines, and to use that weapon for attacks on an enemy.

In the protection of harbors, to prevent enemy warships from entering, there is the observation mine. These mines are moored in channels at some distance below the surface, and are connected up electrically to control stations ashore from which the mines can be exploded, either individually or in groups, when enemy ships arrive in a mined area. Two observers with telescopes from hidden positions ashore converge their instruments upon an enemy ship endeavoring to enter the harbor, and when over a mine the ship can be blown up by the pressure of an electric key. An observation mine is only dangerous to shipping when intentionally used for that purpose.

In the United States, the Army has jur-





Members of a sweeper's crew laying out a cable rig designed for destroying mines. The cables are stored on big motor-driven reels. These photographs were made during practice work by the mine sweepers Catbird and Curlew

isdiction over mine planting for harbor-defense purposes, and maintains vessels specially designed to lay them and to guard them.

The Navy has a separate mine service, mostly concerned with mines of the contact varieties. It lays the mine fields for defense purposes off our coast, and also is respon-

sible for the sweeping up of mines laid by the enemy that menace navigation. The Navy also mines offensively, laying mines off the enemy's coast in order to restrict the

Fooling with live mines is dangerous business, and members of sweeper crews wear life belts which can be inflated instantly with carbon dioxide gas . . .



Sweepers working in line must keep the proper distance apart. Here an officer aims a range finder at a companion ship

Like a lashing tail, the sweeping gear streams out in the wake of the vessel. In sweeping for the moored type of mine, the gear goes out from a boom at the side of the ship to a float or to an accompanying vessel

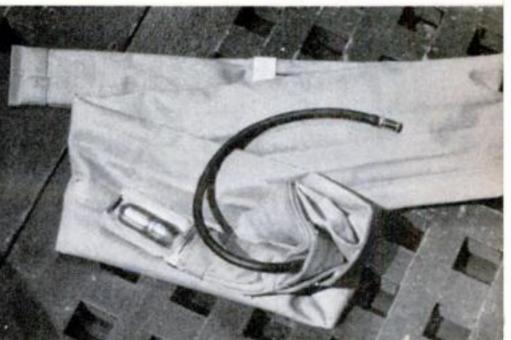
movements of his ships.

There are several types of contact mines, and each explodes automatically when a ship strikes it. In general terms, a contact mine consists of a mine case containing the explosive, and a self-acting anchor and cable. This combination is dropped over the side or at the

stern of a mine-laying vessel. The mechanism of the mine and the self-acting anchor and cable automatically determine the depth that the mine will float beneath the surface,

... if an explosion near by washes a man overboard. The gas is released from a small bottle. The rubber tube is used to blow air in to open up the belt





no matter what the depth of water may be.

Contact mines are used defensively to restrict the movements of enemy ships in our home waters. As a contact mine is as dangerous to friend as to foe, a defensive mine area must be most carefully charted, leaving secret passages known to friendly pilots, through which our own and neutral ships can pass in safety to enter our ports.

Offensive mining by the Navy on the enemy's coast need not be so carefully charted, but even then it is well to know where mines are laid for the benefit of our own warships.

Horned mines, antenna mines, magnetic mines, the unmoored Leon mines, and the acoustic mines illustrate the diversity of present-day types of contact mines. Mines contain anywhere from 300 to 500 pounds of T.N.T., and against the bottom of a ship their explosion is always most destructive.

The horned mine has leaden fingers on the outside of its globular or pear-shaped face. These fingers serve as triggers. When a ship strikes a finger the force of the impact breaks a glass vial within the mine case, spilling a chemical solution into a cup with zinc and carbon strips, or electrodes, thus producing an electric battery which energizes the firing mechanism and explodes the mine.

The antenna mine, introduuced by our Navy during World War I, gives a wider danger field than the horned mine. It is not necessary that this mine be actually struck by

the hull of a ship. Above it there is a float supporting a long vertical copper wire, and when the steel hull of a submarine or surface vessel touches the copper wire, the galvanic action of the dissimilar metals causes a weak current of electricity to flow in the mine, and this current operates a relay to energize a supersensitive electric firing device that detonates the mine.

This type of mine, with its greatly increased danger zone, was used in the North Sea Barrage laid in 1918 by the Yankee Mining Squadron under Captain Reginald Belknap, which closed in the German submarines within their bases with a mine field stretching across the North Sea and containing 70,000 mines. In the present war, Great Britain has used an adaptation of this mine in laying a defensive belt of about 200,000 mines eight miles off shore along the entire east coast of Great Britain.

The magnetic mine is exploded when a steel vessel passes over it or near it. Its principle is that of the magnetic needle, which is deflected when it comes under the influence of a magnetic field such as is produced by the hull of a steel vessel, and explodes the mine.

The Leon mine, a Swedish invention, has no mooring cable and maintains its depth under water by means of an electric-powered propeller, run by a storage battery. It has a limited duration, and becomes inoperative when its storage battery is exhausted.

Acoustic mines are actuated and fired by the sound of a passing vessel. This type may some day become most dangerous as the acoustic principle is further explored by scientists. There is an American invention by which an acoustic torpedo is fired at a ship, and when it comes within range of the noise of the ship's propellers, it will follow the sound to a hit.

Now that we have explored the several

types of mines, what are the means that have been devised to overcome the menace?

The observation mine used by our Army can only be rendered harmless by reducing a fortified harbor by gunfire and bombing planes, thus obtaining control of the electric circuit that fires the mines.

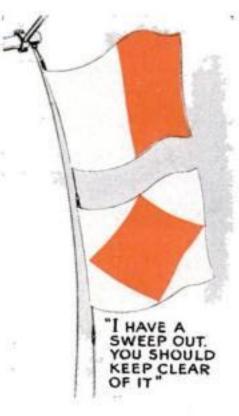
Contact mines of the finger type and the antenna type can be swept up by mine sweepers. This is a dangerous operation, and many of these plucky little vessels have been blown up in performing it.

The U.S. Navy has a number of mine sweepers already in service, and is building more

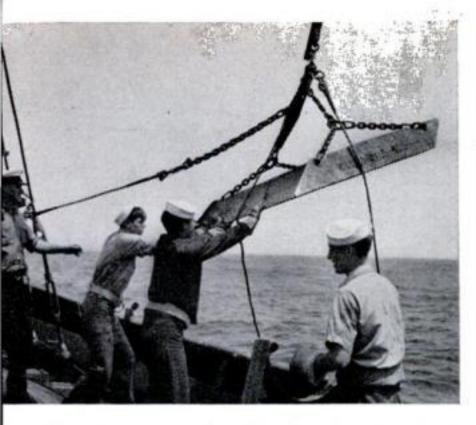
modern ones, equipped with all the new devices that experience has shown to be necessary. That there are not enough of these vessels is evident from the fact that scores of trawlers have been recently purchased for conversion into mine sweepers. Some of the older destroyers have been equipped with sweeping gear. The high speed of the destroyers enables them to clear mines from a large area ahead of a naval attacking force in a minimum of time.

The Navy's coastal mine sweepers are vessels similar in design and appearance to powerful tugs, and are fitted with gear to locate moored mines, and cutting gear to sever the mines from their anchor cables when located, permitting them to float to the surface where they can be exploded by machine-gun fire.

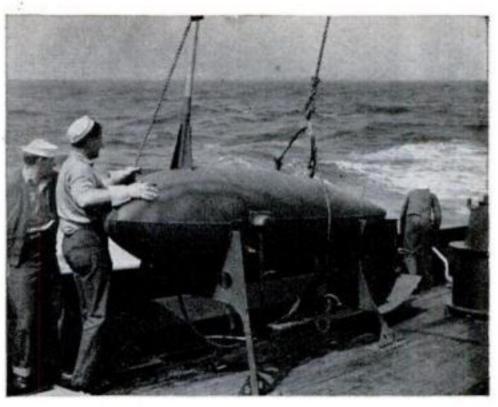
This sweeping gear consists of a heavy wire cable, about 150 fathoms in length. The cable is streamed out from the side of the sweeper. On the cable is a "depressor," located about 30 feet along the cable. This



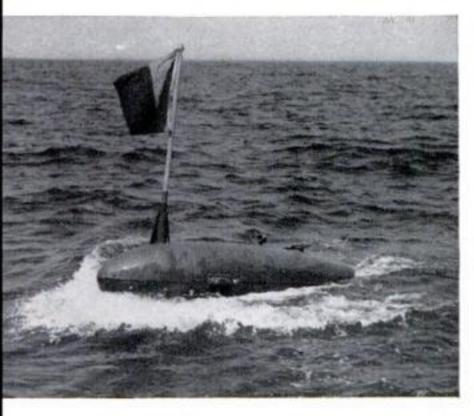
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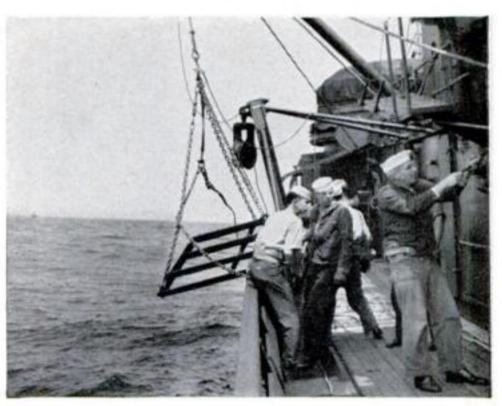
The otter, a metal underwater kite, is part of the gear used in sweeping moored mines, as illustrated in the drawing at the bottom of page



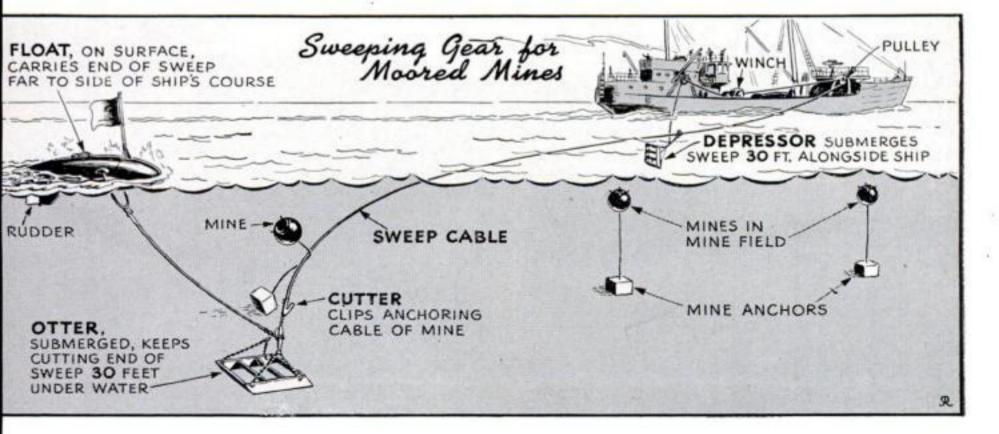
When not in use, the float rests in a cradle on the sweeper's deck. Its purpose is to support the end of the drag cable out from the ship

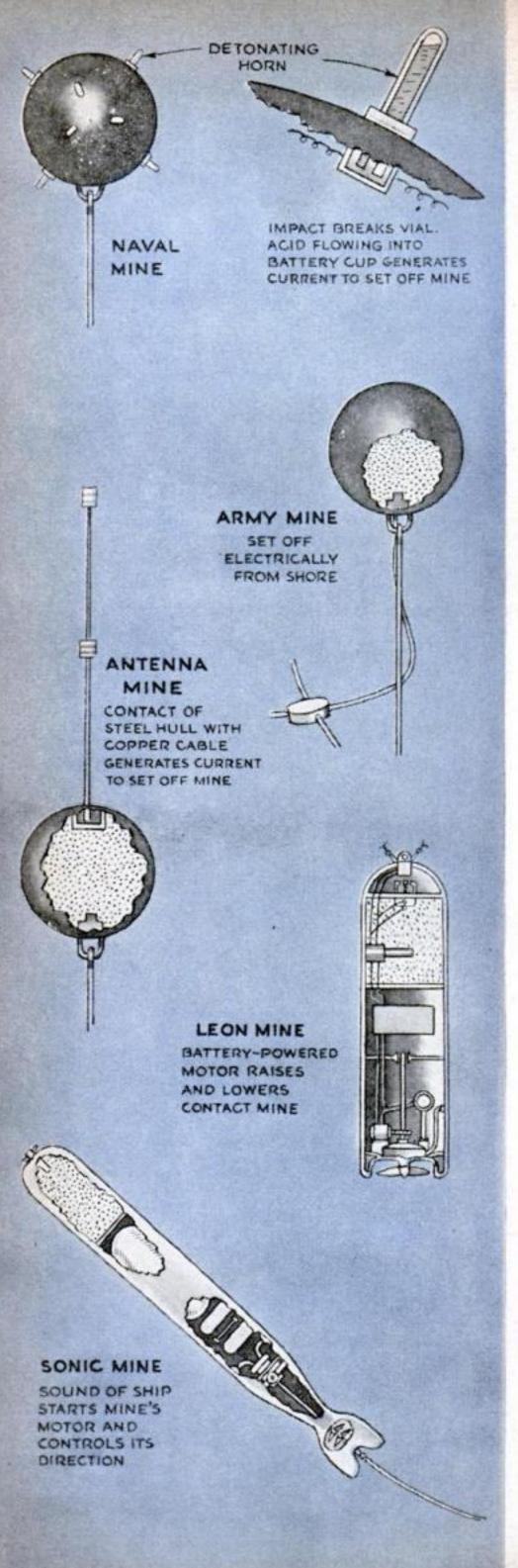


In the water, a fixed rudder keeps the float tugging away from the sweeper, holding the drag cable at tension. The flag marks the sweep's end



To keep the cable at the proper depth for snaring mine moorings, a depressor is rigged on the line. Here it is going over the sweeper's side





keeps the cable buried under water. On the end of the cable is the large float, and at about 30 feet inside the float on the cable is what is called an "otter," or water vane, that keeps the cable buried, and then there is the cutter, a sawtooth instrument that severs the mine from its anchor.

The sweeper steams along with this cable and float streaming out from its quarter. The anchor cable of a mine, between the mine and anchor, will catch on the sweep cable and then travel along the cable until it reaches the cutter when the mine is cut loose and floats to the surface.

Mine sweeping can be accomplished by single vessels or with groups of vessels, depending upon the extent of the channels to be swept. In sweeping a channel for a fleet to pass in safety, no less than four sweepers would operate at once. The usual formation of the sweepers is an echelon, so that a sweeper will protect the one astern of it, and thus only the leader is in danger of striking a mine. There are many formations that can be taken by the sweepers. They can be in pairs, steaming parallel to each other, with sweep wires on the outboard sides of both vessels, and an additional sweep wire between them. These pairs of sweepers can also operate with others in echelon astern of them. In this way a wide channel can be swept.

The magnetic mine was first laid by Ger-

Five main types of mines used by the navies and armies of the world are illustrated in the drawing at the left. Below, how sweepers would clear a channel for a fleet to pass through an enemy mine field. While many formations are possible, they usually operate in echelon, with the sweep of each vessel protecting the ship behind it. In this way, only the leader is in danger of striking a mine. Planes help by locating mine fields from the air





many, and frequently dropped from airplanes to land inside harbors or in channels that are constantly used by the ships of its enemy. Some of these German mines dropped from airplanes were attached to parachutes to make accurate laying possible.

THE WAR in Europe, because of the geographical positions of the two great adversaries, has expanded the use of mining enormously. Each nation has aimed to hem in the other's warships, and to make the routes taken by merchant shipping in narrow waters most dangerous. Each has laid both offensive and defensive mine fields in great numbers, so that it has become necessary for the two nations to be constantly employing a large number of vessels, both to lay mines and to sweep them up. The North Sea, the Baltic, and the English Channel are thickly strewn with mines laid by both Germany and Great Britain. The greatest vigilance is required to protect vessels from the menace of this weapon, for a nation's commerce and the movement of its warships are dependent for their security upon the effectiveness of its mine-sweeping services.

The episode of the German submarine entering Scapa Flow and torpedoing a British battleship is convincing evidence that antisubmarine net tenders are needed in all of our important harbors. Without nets and net-tender vessels a submarine might enter New York Harbor at night and lay mines in the channel even as far as the Narrows.

Operations like those of the mine sweepers Catbird and Curlew shown in the photographs, in the New York area, are for the purpose of clearing channels of mines of all types, including magnetic mines, either laid by surface ships, submarines, or airplanes.

Ships performing this work have special protective devices making operations reasonably safe for the personnel, though not entirely so. Life belts which can be inflated with carbon dioxide gas are worn by all on board, since a geyser of water from an exploding mine too close aboard may wash men overboard.

Individual ships can be protected from the contact mine by the use of paravanes. The paravane is a sort of torpedo-shaped scooter which hangs from a yardarm stretching out from the side of the vessel. In the head of the paravane is a large steel plane, and near its tail there are horizontal and vertical fins. The plane is set at a small angle to the center line of the paravane so that it is in an approximately vertical position when the paravane is being towed through the water. The thrust of the water on the plane when the vessel is in motion carries the paravane away from the fore-

and-aft line of the ship. The mine anchor wire is caught on the cable towing the paravane, and the mine is thus carried away from the ship's side until it reaches the jaws of the cutter located on the paravane. Similar paravanes are used by mine sweepers.

One means of establishing the position of hostile mine fields is by photographing a suspected area from an airplane patrol. From a height of several thousand feet, mines can be seen against a sand or a light-colored bottom, and can readily be photographed.

One of the most difficult mines to deal with is the delayed-action mine. This does not become armed until some substance within the mine dissolves and makes operative the electric circuit, thus arming the mine and making it ready to be exploded when a ship strikes it or passes near it.

The British have devised a means of demagnetizing a ship to make it immune from a magnetic mine, but it has not been entirely successful when used in battleships.

For the laying of mines, several types of vessels are used. There is the mine layer, a warship of from 1,000 to 6,000 or more tons displacement, of high speed, and capable of carrying, depending upon size, from 80 to as many as several thousand mines. It usually operates at night alone, or in the daytime protected by an escort of fighting ships, and is used when a mine field of considerable size is to be laid. The mine layer Terror and two others are under construction for our Navy, the first to be built for that purpose. Usually commercial ships and destroyers are converted into mine layers.

ERMANY developed during World War I a very efficient submarine mine layer, and has this type in numbers in its Navy today. The mines are carried in wells at bow and stern of the vessel, and in the bulges at the side, or are ejected horizontally through tubes at the submarine's stern. The United States built a very large submarine mine layer, the Argonaut, of 2,700 tons surface displacement, armed with two six-inch guns and carrying 60 mines.

The submarine as a mine layer is most effective and useful. It can reach a position for laying mines on the enemy's coast alone and unescorted. It can lay mines in the actual presence of surface warships on patrol without detection. Mining from a submarine is more often performed at night.

During World War I German submarine mine layers traveled all the way to the American coast to lay mine fields off New York Harbor, off Delaware and Chesapeake Bays, and off Cape Hatteras, on the coastal ship lanes. Several ships were destroyed by the mines before they were discovered and swept up.



A model of the head of a poisonous snake showing its fangs, poison sacs, and other parts, one of the more than 100,000 items carried in stock by Ward's Natural Science Establishment, Rochester, N.Y., for sale to museums and private collectors

Below, models of frog eggs are being made. They will be used in an educational display that shows every stage of development from the beginning of the egg until the tadpole appears



#### MUSEUMS FOR SALE

#### Anything from an Embalmed Tomcat to a Dinosaur Track

Science Establishment, in Rochester, N. Y., puts the game of grabbag on a scientific basis. Nobody can guess what will come out of the mail pouch next. It may be a meteorite in a cigar box. It may be butterflies wrapped up in the classroom papers of a mission school in Peru. It may be an order for a dinosaur track, an embalmed tomcat, 200 clothes moths, a dozen live bullfrogs, or a 50,000,000-year-old fly embedded in amber. At no other place on earth could you fill the shopping list which Ward's, almost daily, is accustomed to take in its stride.

This unique institution, now celebrating

its 80th year, has supplied exhibits to virtually every museum in America. In fact, it has helped start most of them. And such celebrated natural scientists as Frederic A. Lucas, first director of the American Museum of Natural History, in New York City; Carl Akeley, famous African explorer; William Morton Wheeler, Harvard entomologist; W. T. Hornaday, first head of the Bronx Zoo; and E. E. Howell, former chief of the U. S. Geological Survey, have served their apprenticeship at Ward's.

Among the more than 100,000 items carried in stock, you encounter fossil worm burrows, extinct passenger pigeons, meteorites containing gold, prehistoric fish that resembles beetles, shark teeth, uncut diamonds, fluorescent snail shells, even the circulation system of a pig—without the pig. Including a sub-basement, known as The Black Hole of Calcutta, and a mineral storage shed, called The Rock Pile, the Rochester supply house has more than 50,000 square feet of floor space. A recently installed loudspeaker system saves steps for the workers.

Rare insects come to Ward's from missionaries, explorers, and other correspondents all over the world. Here the head of the entomology department is preparing some specimens for sale

"Explano-Mounts" for studying insect life combine text with actual specimens of the subject in various life-history stages



Henry A. Ward, who founded the establishment shortly after the start of the Civil War, was an upstate New York farm boy who became interested in museums while working his way through Williams College. When Louis Agassiz, the celebrated Harvard naturalist, lectured in a town 28 miles from the college, young Ward, unable to spare the carfare, walked all the way. He arrived when the lecture was half over

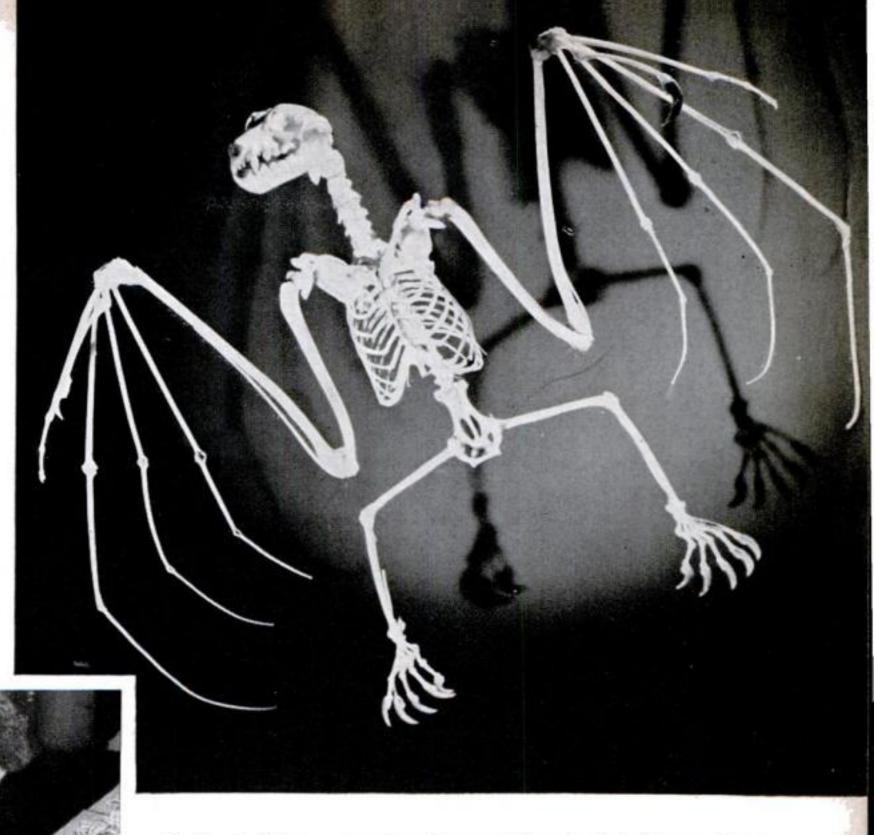
but afterwards met Agassiz and later became his assistant at Harvard. Continuing his education in Paris, Ward supported himself by buying and selling fossils. At the age of 27, he returned to America, bringing with him the finest natural-history collection in the country. After teaching for a year at the University of Rochester, he started his museum supply house in 1862.

In the years that followed, he traveled around the world 15 times, collecting material. Once he bought a whale in Australia and shipped it to Rochester, later selling the skeleton to the Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D. C. When John James Audubon died, Ward bought his collection of mounted birds and when Jumbo, P. T. Barnum's famous elephant, was killed, the carcass was shipped to Rochester for mounting. The next year, Ward offered Jum bo's heart—weighing 46 pounds —for sale for \$40.

The biggest single sale ever made came to a little over \$100,000. At the time of the World's Columbian Exposition, in Chicago in 1893, Ward was asked to assemble a vast amount of natural-history material under the arrangement that it would be purchased by the City of Chicago when the fair closed. At the end of the exposition, the city was unable to carry out its bargain. Ward was facing bankruptcy when the Chicago department-store owner, Marshall Field, bought the material and started the now-famous Field Museum.

More than 3,000 correspondents all over the world send in material to the Rochester supply house. Missionaries, mining engineers, explorers keep on the lookout for rare items. Hardly

POPULAR SCIENCE



Bats' skeletons are for sale at Ward's, as also are gold-bearing meteorites, a fossil worm burrow, and a plastic model of the circulatory system of a pig. At the left, a worker is busy assembling bullfrog skeletons

a week passes without some returning traveler arriving at Ward's with a collection of oddities. It may be a prospector from Mexico in a dilapidated car loaded with mineral specimens or a man from Australia peddling opals or a missionary with skins of the giant pangolin.

Not all purchases are made by collectors and museums. Each year, the sales total is swelled by a considerable sprinkling of oddity requests.

In Florida a woman ordered 20 of the largest sea shells known, 600-pound monsters from the South Seas. She wanted to use them as part of an elaborate outdoor fountain. In Ohio, an advertising concern

purchased several hundred clothes moths to put in the transparent heads of pencils as an advertising stunt for an exterminating company. Prehistoric fish, 60,000,000 years old, have been purchased for the wall decorations of sporting lodges, and dinosaur tracks in stone have been used in fireplaces and garden walks. An amateur photographer in Minnesota buys grasshoppers and other insects for use in table-top photography.

A Cuban who had failed several times in business once ordered the head of a white weasel which he believed would bring him success in all his ventures. Since then, Ward's always has one of them in stock.

In spite of the fact that it is four score years old and the only institution of its kind in existence, Ward's is far from leaning back on its oars. Innovations are constantly tried out. The latest is the use of synthetic resin for injecting into the veins of killed animals to preserve the circulation systems for classroom study and museum display. After the death of the founder in 1906, the unique institution was operated by the heirs. Recently it was donated to the University of Rochester and is now administered by University authorities as a memorial to Henry A. Ward.

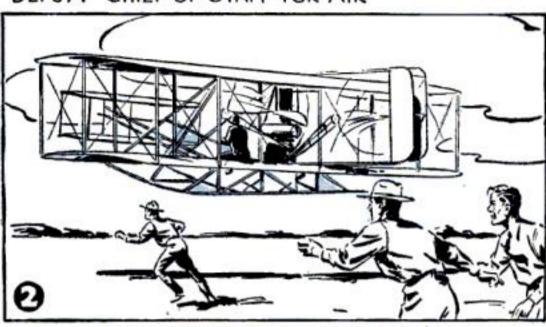


# Here's My Story

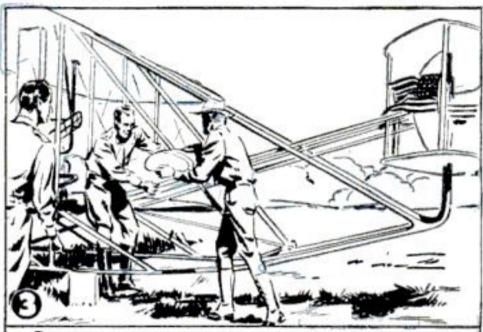
GENERAL ARNOLD IS CHIEF OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES AND
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR AIR



A NATIVE OF GLADWYNE, PA., GENERAL ARNOLD WAS GRADUATED, AT 21 FROM WEST POINT IN 1907, AND COMMISSIONED A SECOND LIEUTENANT IN THE INFANTRY



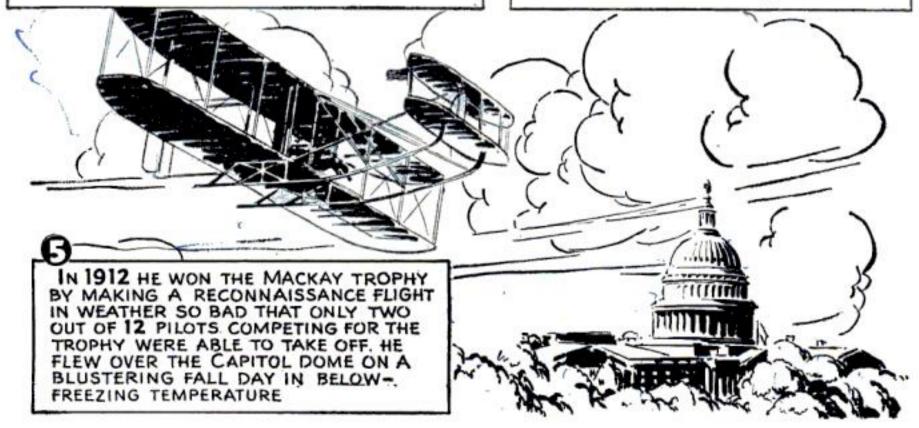
IN 1911 HE LEARNED TO FLY AT THE WRIGHT BROTHERS FLYING SCHOOL AT DAYTON, OHIO. AT THAT TIME THE ARMY'S AIR FORCE CONSISTED OF ONE PLANE AND A HANDFUL OF MEN



During his first year he made 140 flights, TOTALING 29 HOURS, QUITE A RECORD FOR THOSE DAYS. HE ALSO FLEW THE FIRST AIR MAIL IN THAT YEAR



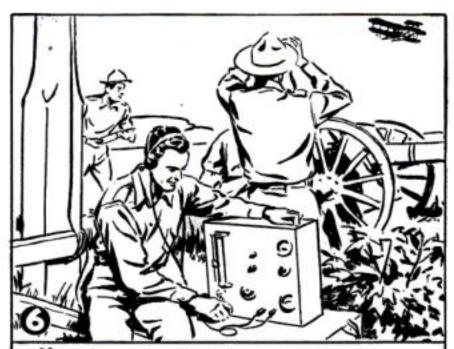
ABOUT THE SAME TIME HE ESTABLISHED WHAT WAS THEN A WORLD'S ALTITUDE RECORD BY FLYING A BURGESS-WRIGHT PLANE TO A HEIGHT OF 6.540 FEET



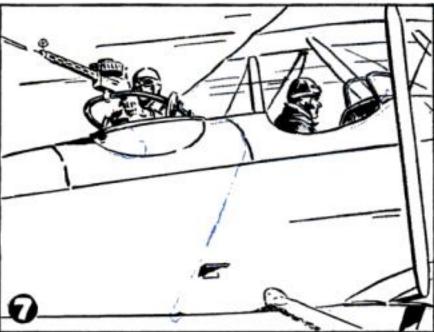
POPULAR SCIENCE

## THE CAREER OF MAJ. GEN. H. H. ARNOLD

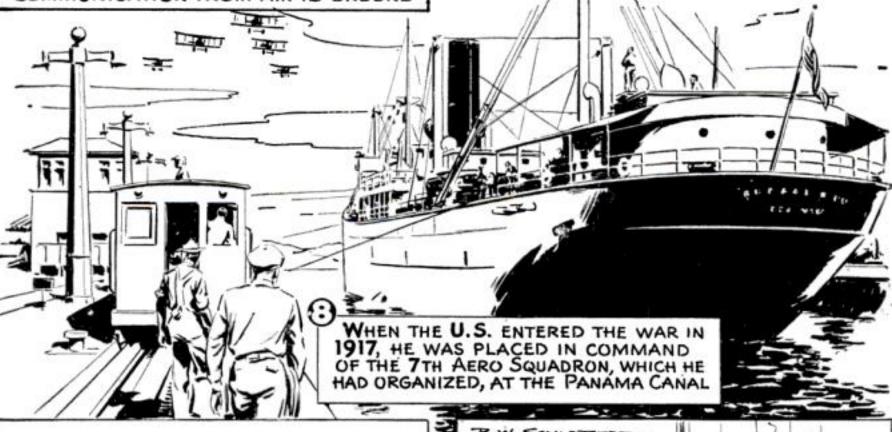


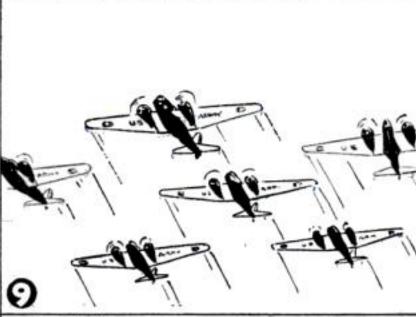


HE USED A RADIO IN A PLANE AT FORT RILEY, KAN., TO DIRECT ARTILLERY FIRE FROM THE AIR, THUS BECOMING THE FIRST AVIATOR TO USE THIS FORM OF COMMUNICATION FROM AIR TO GROUND



HE WAS ALSO ONE OF THE FIRST PILOTS TO EXPERIMENT WITH MACHINE GUNS MOUNTED IN PLANES





IN 1934 HE COMMANDED TEN ARMY
MARTIN BOMBERS ON A FLIGHT FROM
WASHINGTON, D.C., TO FAIRBANKS, ALASKA,
AND BACK. FOR THIS HE WAS AWARDED
THE MACKAY TROPHY A SECOND TIME



PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF MAJOR GENERAL IN 1938, ARNOLD WAS APPOINTED CHIEF OF THE ARMY AIR CORPS. HE WAS PROMOTED TO THE GENERAL STAFF AND ASSUMED HIS PRESENT DUTIES THIS YEAR

#### Portable Kit Gives Blood Transfusions on the Battlefield



Kit being set up for emergency blood transfusion. Sealed in the cans in foreground is dried plasma

BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS can be given to accident victims or wounded soldiers almost anywhere with an emergency kit that can be set up for use in one minute. Weighing only 12 pounds, the kit contains dried blood plasma, packed in rubber-stoppered bottles which are sealed in eight-by-three-



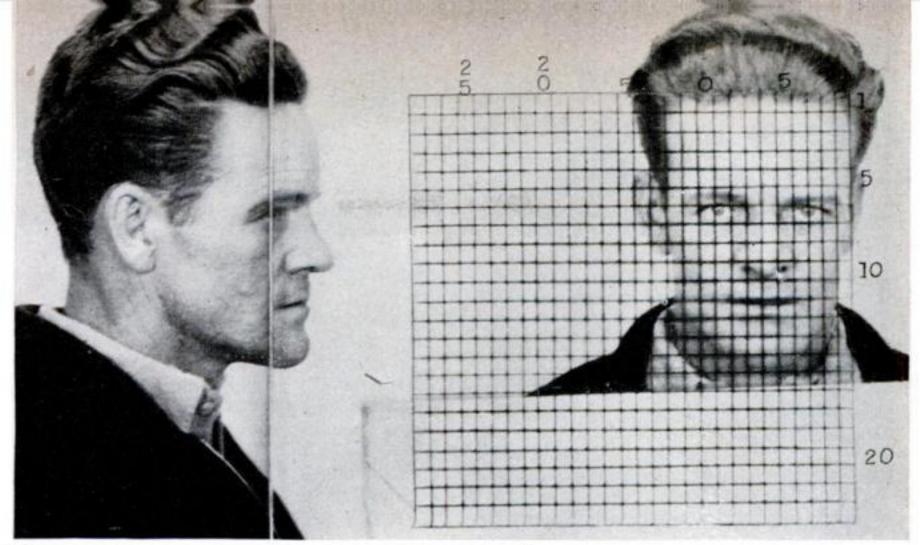
In operation at scene of an accident. Blood kit is ready and transfusion is given where minutes count

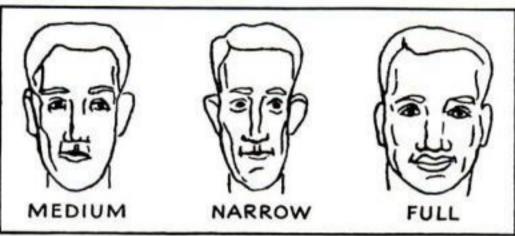
inch cans; a bottle of sterile water to mix with the plasma; rubber tubing and a needle for injecting the solution into the veins of the patient, and other necessary equipment. The kit holds enough water and plasma to make a solution equivalent to 500 centimeters of blood.

#### Feed System Cuts Auto Costs by Vaporizing Fuel Oil

DRIVING AN AUTOMOBILE 200 miles on 25 cents worth of fuel oil would be a cinch, according to Joseph E. Blanding, of New London, Conn., if its engine were fitted with a fuel feed system he has invented. This device, which converts low-compression, spark-ignition engines into compression-ignition engines, causes the fuel oil to be completely vaporized as it is sucked into the cylinders, Blanding states. This complete vaporization makes possible efficient combustion without the use of the injectors and high compression ratios found in conventional Diesel engines which operate on similar, or an even more refined, fuel. Blanding has designed a special engine for use with this device, but has used it on ordinary marine and automobile engines.







How a cross-ruled glass screen, placed over a full-face photograph, measures the width and height of the features. Proportions of the normal face are 23:28. Filed photographs are cross-classified as medium, narrow, or full, as illustrated at the left, to aid officers in translating a description into terms of the code

#### Police Identification System "Fingerprints" Faces

ACES are classified like fingerprints, to index hundreds of thousands of portraits, in the criminal files of Los Angeles County, Calif. A ruled glass screen called a "physiogmograph," applied to each photograph, enables experts to determine accurately such information as facial height and width, and the size and shape of nose and mouth. Characteristics also noted include position of the ears, height, weight, general build, and the color of hair, eyes, and complexion. Finally, all these items are ingen-

iously combined in a numberand-letter code symbol, such as 11/5 NUFCFLCHD, under which the picture is filed.

As a result, a victim or witness of a crime—say, a holdup—need not thumb through hundreds or thousands of photographs, which may serve only to

Deputy H. C. McDonald of Los Angeles measures a photograph with the screen. Filed under the ingenious letter-and-number system, it can be located at once to aid identification confuse his memory. He simply gives the best description he can of the crook. This is translated into the corresponding code symbol, and perhaps as few as a dozen photographs answering the description come from the files for possible identification—all the "impossible" ones being automatically eliminated. As little information as the approximate height and one facial characteristic of a criminal may lead to his capture, although every added detail helps narrow the search.

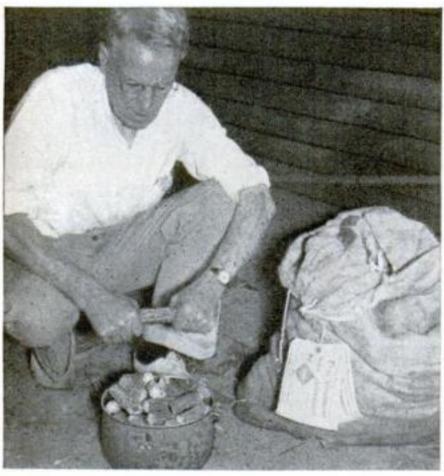


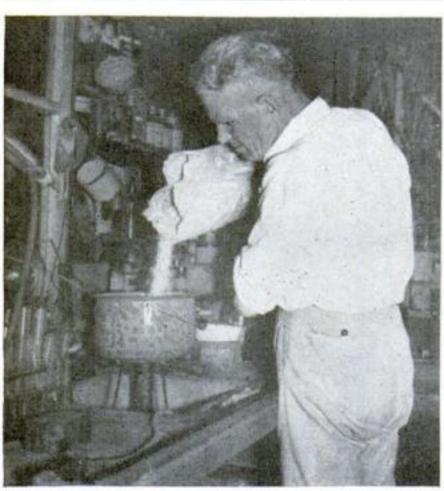
OCTOBER, 1941

#### SECRET PROCESS PROMISES

#### EXPLOSIVES FROM CORNCOBS

ORE THAN 3,000,000,000 corncobs which annually go to waste may be converted into explosives for defense of the nation, as a result of recently discovered methods for treating cobs. Following successful experiments by Francis E. Wilkinson, of Glendale, Calif., a plant has been erected at Missouri Valley, Iowa, to convert 40 tons of cobs daily into cellulose explosives, synthetic rubber, and gums.





For six years Wilkinson has dreamed of founding a new industry on corncobs. Late in 1940, a group of Iowa business men visited his back-yard laboratory to inquire whether he could find some way to convert wasted cobs into defense products. To their amazement, he replied he could complete the job in 60 days. "What they did not know," he chuckles, "is that I had been hard at work on the problem since 1935."

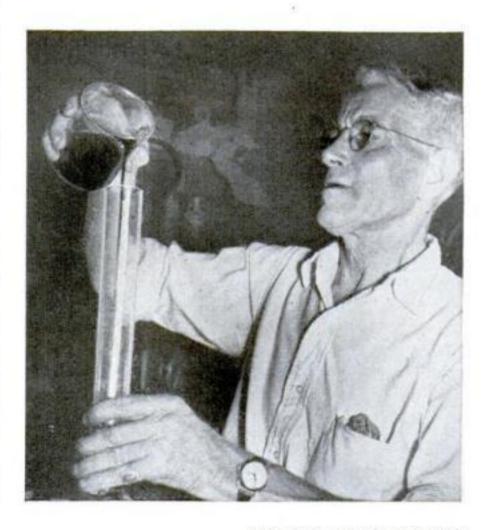
To extract cellulose, Wilkinson grinds the cobs and boils them, the solids being cellulose. After filtering, he evaporates the liquor down to a thick sirup. This liquid contains gums, valuable for tires and plastics. With the addition of two secret processes, this laboratory method will be applied in the Iowa plant on a large scale.

Dr. Lionel K. Arnold reported recently in the Iowa State College bulletin that corn stalks yield 25 products, husks 15 and pith 20. To cobs he ascribed 48 uses, from acetic acid and diabetic food to resin. Cobs cost virtually nothing, and Wilkinson believes his method will give the United States alcohol, guncotton, motor fuel and gunpowder in vast quantities.

Waste corn cobs from lowa are broken up and ground in California backyard laboratory as first step in giving Uncle Sam a new, cheap source of explosives

Boiling comes next, and ground cobs leave mass of solids—cellulose—the first defense product to be salvaged. The liquid is carefully poured off

Liquid is then evaporated to a thick sirup which contains gums, valuable for tires and plastics. A plant has been put up in lowa to utilize process



POPULAR SCIENCE

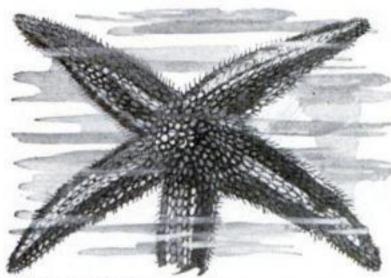
### Un-Natural History



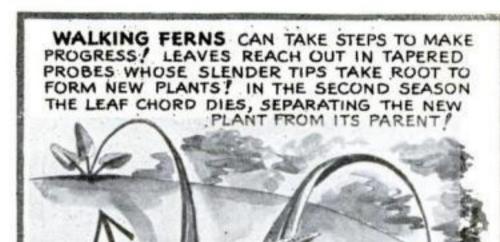
POLLEN-CARRYING STAMEN TIPS OF THE MOUNTAIN LAUREL ARE HELD IN TEN LITTLE POCKETS IN THE SIDE OF THE BLOSSOM, THEIR STEMS BENT READY TO SPRING LIKE BOWS! WHEN A BUMBLEBEE'S LEGS TOUCH THE STEMS, THE STAMENS SPRING UP AND DUST HIM WITH POLLEN!

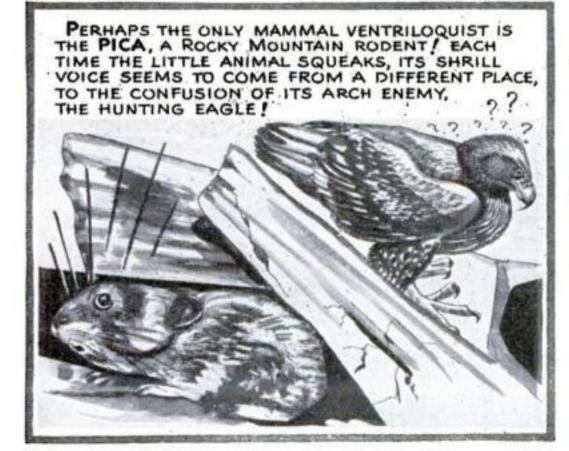
NATURALISTS SAY THAT BULLFROGS USUALLY REPEAT THEIR DEEP BASS SONG, "BETTER GO ROUND, BETTER GO ROUND," SEVEN TIMES BEFORE PAUSING! ONLY RARELY WILL ONE MAKE IT SIX OR EIGHT TIMES!

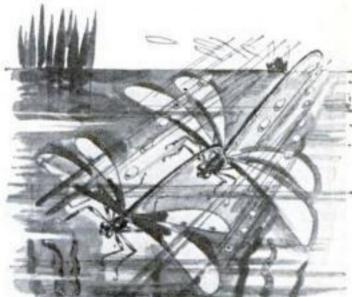




IF ONE OF THE FIVE ARMS OF THE COMMON STARFISH IS BROKEN OFF, ANOTHER GROWS IN ITS PLACE? STRANGER STILL, IF YOU CUT THE STARFISH IN HALVES, A COMPLETE STARFISH WILL DEVELOP FROM EACH HALF?







DAMSEL FLIES COMMONLY FLY
TANDEM, THE MALE GRASPING THE
THORAX OF THE FEMALE AND
FLYING IN FRONT OF HER ON HER
EGG-LAYING EXPEDITIONS! HE
EVEN GOES UNDER WATER WITH
HER TO PLACE EGGS ON
SUBMERGED PLANTS!



### NATURAL CEMENT COMES BACK

A 110-Year-Old Industry Booms Again As Engineers Discover a Recipe for Making Concrete Roads Last Longer

By WALTER HOLBROOK

IGHWAY engineers have found a way to have their cake and eat it, too, and as a result the natural-cement industry, dead for 40 years, is staging a sensational comeback. By mixing natural cement with the synthetic product which once drove it off the market, engineers have discovered a highway material that blends the durability of the one with the quick-hardening quality of the other.

The foundations of the National Capitol, Brooklyn Bridge, and the Statue of Liberty were all built with a cement mined at Rosendale, N. Y., and today they look as if they had been put up only last year. The automobile age, however, was impatient of the month it takes the natural product to harden, and turned to synthetic or "Portland" cements which did the job in a week. After a few years the synthetics began to show signs of wear and by 1930 there was considerable agitation for making them more durable. Some states stopped building concrete roads altogether.

Then along came an engineer named Bertrand H. Wait. He had been impressed with the toughness of old Rosendale cement houses and culverts he had seen near the mine in 1910, when he was helping build New York City's Catskill Aqueduct, and it oc-

Pneumatic drills make holes for blasting at mines of the Century Cement Manufacturing Co., Rosendale, N.Y. Though cement has been mined here for 110 years, methods have changed little

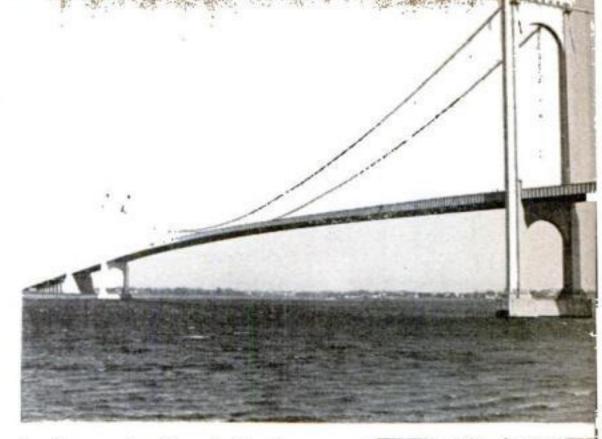
Placing the dynamite charge for a blast. After the explosion, the rock is broken up with a sledge hammer into pieces that are small enough for one man to lift and load into trucks or cars to go to the kilns



curred to him that the old Rosendale and synthetic cement might be blended in such a way that it would be both lasting and quick-hardening. He started experimenting in 1933, and soon evolved blends 12 times as resistant to freezing and thawing in salt solutions as ordinary, synthetic cements, yet so strong the forms could be taken down at the same time they would be if the ordinary cement were used straight. He persuaded New York State's Commissioner of Highways to try a blend of one sack of Rosendale with six sacks of ordinary cement.

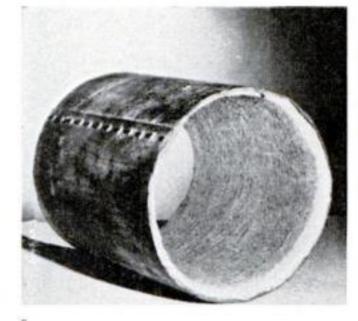
The first blended road was put down in the summer of 1934 at New Paltz, N. Y., only ten miles south of the 110-year-old mine. The next year the State began using the blend on steep grades and curves, and in 1937 made it standard for all its highway construction. Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Maine soon did likewise. Rosendale, a town of 1,000 population, boomed, and owners began pumping water out of natural-cement mines from one end of the country to the other.

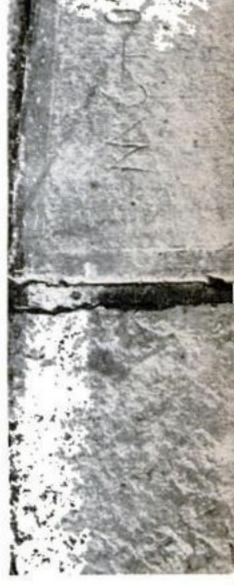
A blend of two sacks of Rosendale to five of ordinary cement was used in the construction last May of the largest cofferdam seal ever poured in the East. This stopper at the bottom of a bridge piling was in the Gowanus Canal, at Hamilton Avenue, in Brooklyn. The New York State Department of Architecture uses blends now for all its foundations and cellar floors, but four fifths of the 1,000,000 sacks produced at Rosendale last year went into highways. Recent tests have indicated that

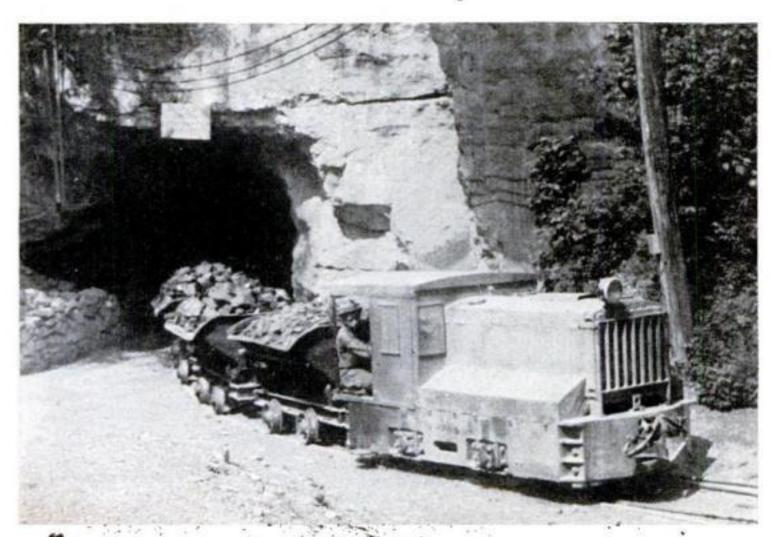


In the construction of the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge, in New York City, Rosendale blend was used in sealing cofferdams and concreting one pier

The section of water main below was in service for 84 years at Plymouth, Mass. The outer shell is of wrought iron, the lining of Rosendale cement







Above are two slabs of highway concrete after three years of service. The slab at top is made of Portland blended with the natural cement; the lower slab is made of the Portland alone

A gasoline locomotive drags a string of cars loaded with rock out of one of the Rosendale mines. Two of the openings are big enough for a car to be driven into them; some rock is removed in trucks

blends are superior to straight synthetics for air-raid shelters. They do not shatter so easily, and when big enough charges of T.N.T. are used to break them up, they split into bigger pieces which do not fly as far, thus reducing the danger to people in the vicinity.

An outcropping of the Rosendale deposit was discovered in 1825 on the farm of Jacob Snyder, an old Dutch settler, during the building of the Delaware & Hudson Canal, which ran right past Snyder's front door. Snyder started commercial development five years later, though for the first 30 years the cement was used largely for mortar. Its lasting quality under water, however, plus the invention of the concrete mixer in 1860 led to its increased use in concrete, and in 1899, the peak year for natural cement, 17 companies took more than 4,000,-000 barrels out of the Rosendale mines.

As the business flowed away to the synthetics, 15 of the companies combined to try to produce a quick-hardening natural cement to meet competition. They failed and soon the only mine operating was the oldest, the one developed by Jacob Snyder. Through the lean years Snyder's grandson and great-grandson continued to mine the rock for mortar, still a profitable segment of the business. The great-grandson, A. J. Snyder, bought up a couple of the abandoned mines, and today is general manager of the Century Cement Manufacturing Co., the only firm operating at Rosendale.

For several years Century has doubled its production each year, and in 1941 Snyder expects to take nearly 500,000 barrels from the three mines he is working. There is little fear of the vein being worked out for another 100 years, for it is known to be at least eight miles long, five miles wide, and 22 feet thick.

Snyder mines the rock much as his great-grandfather did, except that air instead of steam drills are used to bore holes for the dynamite. The shaft kilns used in burning the rock have been in service for 50 to 100 years, though they must be relined annually with firebrick.



Sandwiched between layers of No. 2 buckwheat coal, the rock is packed in 40-foot kiln shafts. These kilns have been used for 50 to 100 years, with occasional relining with fire brick

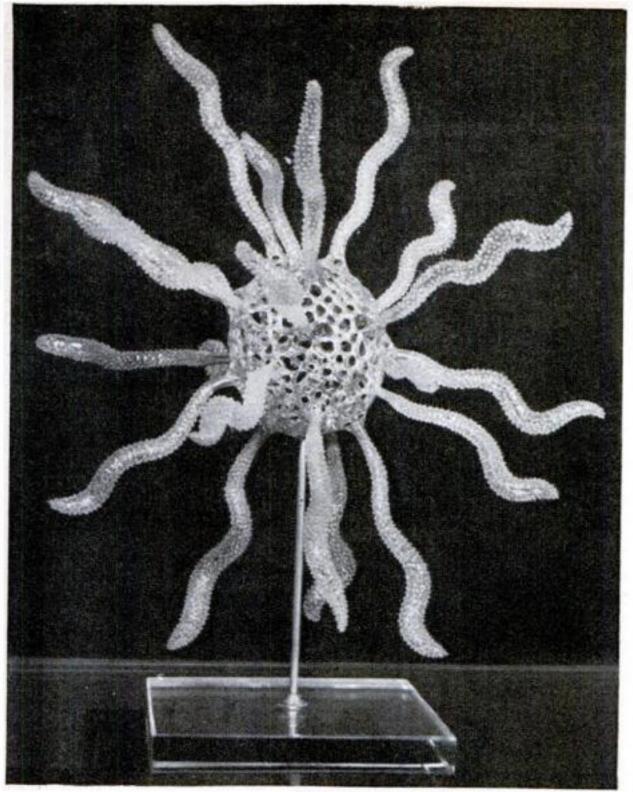


Burning is a continuous process. Twice a day, a sixth of the rock is drawn off through a door in the bottom of the kiln, and more of the raw material and coal is fed in at the top

Crushed by hammer mills beside the kilns, the rock is carried in basket trolleys to the mill where it is pulverized and screened. After testing, it is sacked as below for shipment



POPULAR SCIENCE



# GLASS SCULPTOR

## MODELS MICROSCOPIC LIFE

OLDING glass into vastly enlarged copies of microscopic organisms has kept Herman Mueller busy for 35 years. Working with a Bunsen blowtorch and ordinary soft lime soda glass, he has made more than 1,000 scientifically accurate reproductions of infinitesimal living organisms.

His work is used by the American Museum of Natural History in New York City to depict the wonders of living things that are invisible or almost invisible to the naked eye—the plant and animal jungles that exist in drops of

A siliceous skeleton of a radiolarian, one of the minute organisms found in tropical seas, modeled in glass by Herman O. Mueller for the American Museum of Natural History in New York City

Mueller at work on one of his scientifically accurate and at the same time beautiful creations. He uses a soft lime soda glass, shaping the tubes or rods with the aid of a Bunsen blowtorch



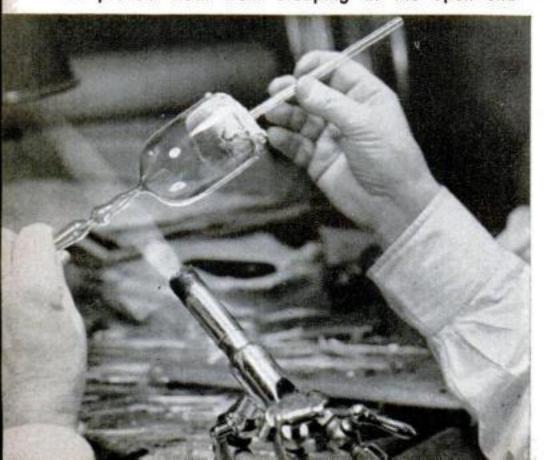
water. Some of his creations require months of painstaking work for completion, and each must be approved by scientists before it is placed on exhibition.

Mueller, whose family had been glass blowers for 150 years in Thuringia, Germany, before he came to the United States in 1893, makes practically all of his reproductions from glass tubes an inch in diameter, or quarter-inch-thick glass rods. He works from water-color paintings turned out by a staff of four Museum artists, from microscope slides, and occasionally he visits a laboratory on his own to get some first-hand information on his subjects. The finished products are colored with oil



Heating a tube over his burner flame, the scientific sculptor blows a round bubble from the molten glass. By inflating and drawing out the fragile material, he shapes it in imitation of nature's tiny creatures

Forming a large globe which will eventually become the umbrella of a jellyfish, he uses a pad of asbestos to prevent heat from escaping at the open end



paints that are blown on with air brushes.

Mueller's greatest work was the reproduction of the creatures in a quarter of an inch of pond bottom magnified 1,000,000 times. That took him five years. Mounted in a six-foot showcase now, the exhibit contains 73 types of crustaceans, rotifers, water mites, insects, hydroids, protozoans, flowering plants, algæ, desmids, and diatoms, arranged in a natural setting.

Perhaps the hardest assignment he ever had was to make a model of a sand flea, a shrimplike crustacean about a quarter of an inch long. Each of the half dozen segments of the flea's body had to be blown as a separate piece. Then each section of

the legs had to be made separately. There were five pairs of walking legs, seven pairs of swimming legs, and three pairs of maxillipeds, which are a cross between legs and mouth parts.

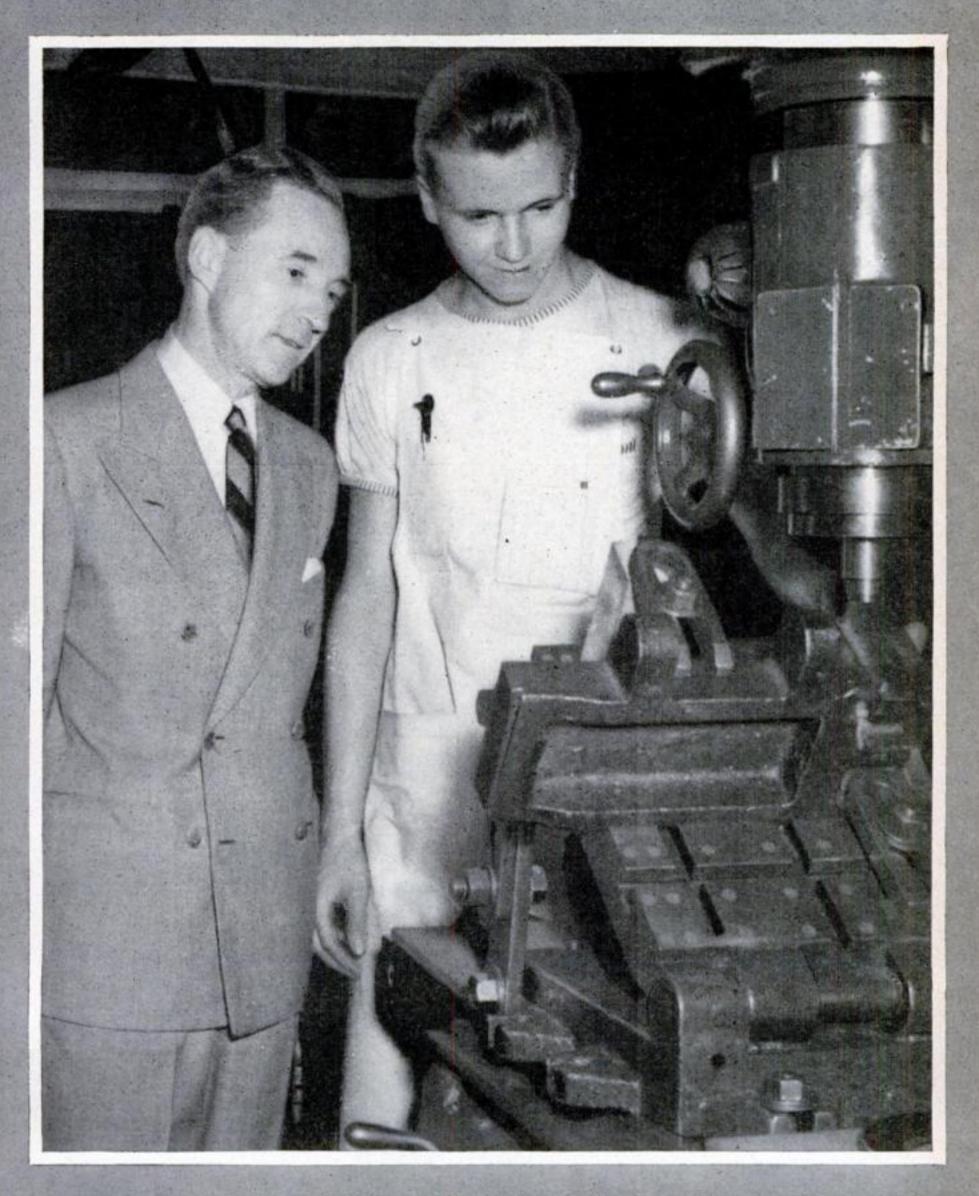
For all the exasperating labor the flea required, it did not have nearly as many parts as Mueller's 11-inch-wide reproduction of a globigerina, a protozoan of the class Sarcodina, which has hundreds of delicate spines four inches long radiating from it on all sides. This, incidentally, is the minute organism whose shell comprises most of the chalk cliffs of Dover. Although it is microscopic, its shells make up 70 percent of the ocean bottom for several hundred feet deep in many places.

Apart from the remarkable faithfulness with which the models reproduce nature, many of them are objects of rare beauty in themselves, displaying a gorgeous variety of forms and designs. One of the handsomest is a model of one of the radiolarians, a protozoan called *Dorcodospyris dinoceras*, which lives at a depth of 2,900 fathoms in the Indian Ocean. It resembles a two-dimensional front view of a royal crown. Two arms curve downward like the sides of a crown, and a globular object like a gem is set at the top center.

Mueller says that as far as he can tell, the use of glass for scientific models of living things in this country goes back about 50 years, to the time when Harvard University commissioned the Blaschkes, a father and son living near Dresden, Germany, to make models of flowers. The Blaschkes did all their work in Germany, however. Lately, the Field Museum in Chicago and the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh have commissioned American glass blowers to make models of microscopic life, but Mueller, at 62 years of age, seems to remain the undisputed dean of his remarkable specialty.

POPULAR SCIENCE

# AUTOS



Edsel Ford Tells About Trade Schools for Defense

NEXT PAGE



# Ford's Expanded Training Activities Help Break the Manpower Bottleneck in Emergency Industries

By SCHUYLER VAN DUYNE

HETHER for war or peace, machines don't run by themselves. They need trained operators, and trained operators don't just happen. So reasoned Henry Ford 26 years ago when he established the first of the famous Ford Industrial Schools. Today, with six Ford schools training more than 10,000 men in basic industrial skills, Henry Ford, educa-

tor, is an essential counterpart of Henry Ford, industrialist.

Edsel Ford, president of the Ford Motor Company, summed it up to the writer this way: "The Ford Motor Company, and many others in the industry, are doing a bang-up job with one of the most perplexing of the defense assignments. We hope we won't be caught with the machinery, plants, and materials, and not enough men to operate them.

"And that goes for de-

fense, war, or peace. We want it to be for peace."

We sat at the desk of Frederick E. Searle, superintendent of the schools, after an inspection tour. The roar of student-operated machines still reached our ears from the three-acre student shop within the River Rouge plant at Dearborn, Mich. It was the same building, incidentally, where in 1918 the Ford Company built Eagle Boat submarine chasers for the U. S. Navy. Today it

shelters the Ford Trade School where 1,800 boys from 12 to 19 years old are taught what it takes to become skilled craftsmen.

It is only one of six Ford schools, and another is being planned. Twenty-six years ago, Henry Ford founded the first of them, the Ford Apprentice School, when he assigned as full-time instructor an employee who was voluntarily tutoring six new shop men in machine-tool operations.



Edsel Ford, at left, tells the writer how the Ford Industrial Schools are helping train machinists for defense

"My father had long been keenly interested in education, and that was the real beginning of the practical application of his teaching ideas," Edsel Ford told me.

Where these ideas have led is one of the most astonishing chapters of the almost incredible Ford history. For one thing, Henry Ford's nonprofit schools have provided better-trained workmen. That's important. For another, they operate at next to no cost, despite their current expenses of \$15,000,000 a year. That's important, too. But of most importance to Henry Ford, educator, they have helped thousands of boys and men to support themselves while continuing their studies.

"That they are now helping the country man some of the defense factories with competent workers is of paramount importance today," Edsel Ford said.

Back of it all is a story of educational

pioneering born largely of the imagination of the senior Ford. Less than a year after the founding of his Apprentice School, in 1915, he organized the Henry Ford Trade School to fit youngsters with something more tangible than Latin and Greek for getting industrial jobs. That his efforts benefited the company came as a by-product rather than as an end.

"My father has always had such youths in mind, who were headed for his own or similar industrial plants," the Ford President said.

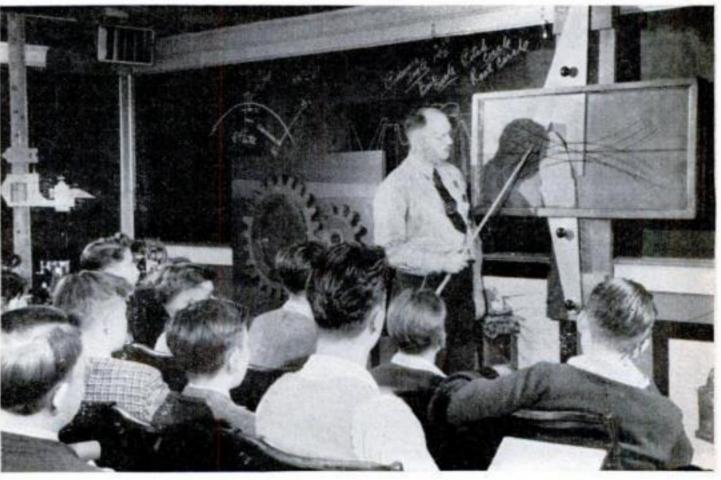
That other school men liked his ideas is testified to by the fact that many Ford students are enrolled on the local school-board recommendations. Others are recommended by ministers, civic leaders, and the juvenile courts. That the schoolboys themselves approve is shown by the fact that the school can accept less than one percent of the ap-

plicants, and that more than 75 percent finish the four to six-year course.

Henry Ford Trade School boys are admitted between the ages of 12 and 15. They complete their training at 18 or 19, and then are offered jobs with the Company. Each boy gets three weeks' vacation in the summer and one at Christmas. His time is alternated with a week at class work and two weeks in the shop. He is paid a cash scholarship of 20 cents an hour to start with, and the rate is adjusted seven times a year according to his progress. If he applies himself, he may get as much as 45 cents an hour before completing his class work. When all his time is spent in shop training, it may reach 90 cents. In addition to his pay,

Two students use a drill press in repairing a piece of shop equipment. The boys in the Trade School have the job of servicing thousands of tools in the Ford plants

Classroom teaching supplements actual shop work. A Trade School boy spends one week at class for each two weeks in the shop during his four years of training. He learns order, time value



the school also gives him \$2 a month to maintain a regular bank savings account, and it checks his bankbook monthly while he is there. He also gets a daily hot lunch, free. The three items—scholarships, thrift funds, and luncheons—totaled more than \$1,500,000 in 1940.

During his four years of class work, the boy studies mathematics, shop theory, and drawing, in addition to English, civics, economics, auto mechanics, physics, chemistry, qualitative and quantitative analysis, and metallography. Safety, orderliness, accuracy, and time values are drilled into him, and he learns the dignity of necessary work by taking his turn at sweeping floors and cleaning windows.

HENRY FORD.
TRADE
SCHOOL
(HRIFT GARDENS)

Thrift gardens give the youngsters a taste of outdoor work. When they get to be machinists, they will know how to plant their own gardens and raise fresh vegetables for themselves

It isn't all work and no play, either. Singing and other group activities break the monotony of shop and classroom. Civics, economics, and English supplement technical studies



But it is mainly the shop work that the Ford Company itself provides for the boys that sets the school apart from the ordinary vocational school. For it is 100-percent practical work for both boys and the Company. Actually, the making and maintenance of tools is the Trade School's part of the work schedule of producing Ford cars, and, by a system of credits, or "sales" of work done for the Company, the financial return to the school almost equals its operating expenses, thus making it practically self-supporting.

Thus, beginners are assigned to salvaging broken or badly worn small tools from the Ford assembly lines, whenever they are returnable to productive use. The youngsters,

as they repair them, familiarize themselves with handling them, learn their uses, and come to understand their design. Thousands of screw drivers, wrenches, oil cans, shears, hack-saw frames, hammers, and the like pass through their hands, while from 400 to 700 factory safety goggles are put back in good repair by the boys each day.

Later, the boys learn to make tools such as cutters, reamers, and drills, and to repair precision tools. In a month, they may overhaul 350 pairs of micrometers and 4,000 dial indicators. In addition, the Trade School pupils completely built and constantly maintain the 130 miles of chain conveyors that wind through the Rouge plant.

Every student spends some time in each of the training shop's 25 departments. At his service are more than \$2,000,000 worth of power machinery, rented to the school by the Company for \$10,000 a month.

Edsel Ford commented: "You can readily see why boys who complete the courses are well equipped to enter the Ford Motor Company or other manufacturing plants."

So we could!

The Ford Apprentice School, oldest of them all, is also close to the hearts of the Fords, father and son. It has about 6,000 students today. All Ford apprentices must attend its classes and shop courses, while any Ford employee may attend the latter. The men go to classes two periods a week for three years, before or after their regular hours, and, as in the Trade School, their class and shop problems are practical, becoming actual production-

line problems almost at once. Under the guidance of shop instructors, the men are put through training in the use and maintenance of shapers, lathes, millers, grinders, and benches. They begin at 75 cents an hour and are immediately eligible for advances based on their progress.

It was six years ago, at a time when unemployment throughout the country was a fearsome thing, that Henry Ford inaugurated still another school at Rouge—the Ford Training School. This was open to high-school graduates between 18 and 20. The avowed aims were to teach them a trade while retaining their interest in education, as "to get them off the well as streets." The course, lasting three months, covers tool and die work, electrical repair, heat treatment, welding, or motor repair, and students begin at 55 cents an hour. The school handles 1,200 students a year. In May of this year, enrollment was upped to 620, with 60 instructors, and the records show that 4,094 have completed the training and been placed in the Ford plant. The graduates represent 283 high schools. An illuminating commentary is furnished by the fact that of 1,791 boys graduated from high schools in and around Detroit in January, 1940, 1,200 applied for admission at the Ford Training School.

It was months ago that the Fords recognized in the coming defense emergency the need for expanding their schools to meet the employment problems sure to arise with completion of their defense plants. The agreement of automobile manufacturers to cut car pro-

duction 21 percent—perhaps much more—in 1942, and to continue the new models for two years, would only partly meet the problem. For, while it would release skilled workmen from civilian manufacture, even these workers would be at best partly trained for such tasks as building airplanes and airplane engines.

It was then that the wisdom and experience gained in the three Ford schools were thrown into the task of creating three new schools. Actually, the first new school was formed to satisfy a more immediate defense problem; that of aiding in the instruction of U. S. Navy recruits in the maintenance of battleships and other seagoing craft under construction and nearing completion.



Repairing safety goggles for Ford workmen is one of the many chores performed by Trade School boys. From 400 to 700 pairs of the protectors pass through their hands in a day

In the Ford Navy Service School, Uncle Sam's new sailors from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station are taught to man and maintain the machinery used on modern battleships



It is now in operation as the Ford Navy Service School, teaching upwards of 1,500 of Uncle Sam's new sailors from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station each three months how to man the machinery of intricate modern battleships. Plumbing, electricity, steam and Diesel engines, operation of machine tools and of repair-shop instruments, practical physics, mathematics, chemistry, and design, are some of their subjects, hammered into the men in the main Ford tool shop by Ford and Navy instructors.

To house the students, Henry Ford built and turned over to the Navy for \$1 a year a group of barracks for 1,500 men. They stand on the bank of the River Rouge, within the Ford plant, and landing piers on the river bank permit Great Lakes Naval craft to dock virtually at their front doors.

Of comparable importance are the two other new schools, one already operating, established to train men for Ford's two new defense plants. One of these plants, at Dearborn, has begun filling an initial order for 4,236 2,000-horsepower Pratt and Whitney airplane engines. The other, at Willow Run, 20 miles away near Ypsilanti, is soon to go into production on assemblies and complete Consolidated B-240 four-engine heavy bombers.

Each of the new plants was built with schoolrooms. Early in June, classes opened in the Ford Aircraft School at the engine plant, where three floors are devoted to ten lecture rooms, four laboratories, and four drafting rooms, designed to handle 3,000 students. And soon to be opened is the Willow Run Aircraft School, with still more capacious class rooms adequate to its needs.

All of the operating Ford schools are now geared for all-out emergency training of their pupils. According to Edsel Ford, they are treating defense needs as of first importance, ordinary civilian manufacturing needs being placed in the background whenever it is deemed necessary.

The Ford president is the last to imply

that his organization is the only car builder training men for the special tasks of defense industry. For other car makers and industrialists with defense orders are undertaking similar solutions to their skilled-labor problems.

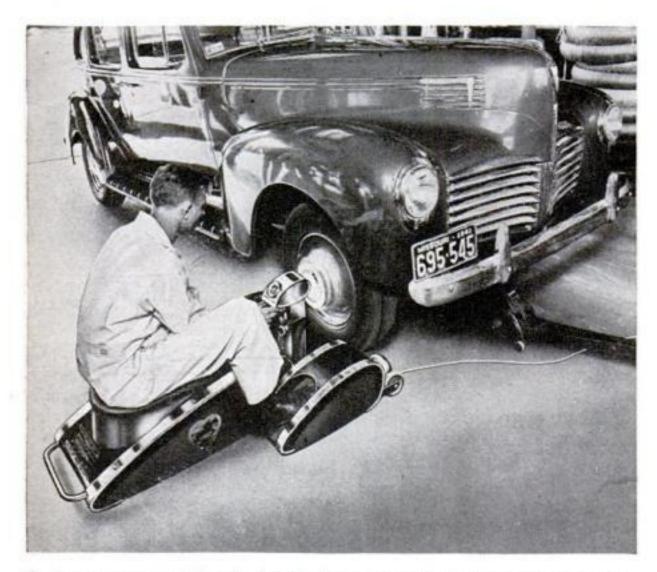
"We," he declared, "thanks to my father's far-sightedness in establishing industrial schools long ago, feel particularly well equipped for the training tasks in hand."

You will find schools directly patterned after those at Dearborn as far away as India, I learned, and in many other foreign countries. One at Jam-Shed-Pur, for example, 50 miles from Calcutta, was established by a Ford graduate 13 years ago. It trains men for the gigantic Tata Steel and Iron Company there, which employs 50,000 workers.

During June, the Government sent nine men to the Ford school superintendent to learn the school's methods to aid in preparing teachers for the U.S. industrial teaching program.

And when Detroit some months ago inaugurated its vocational-school, emergencyteacher-training program, it took over 35 Ford instructors for the task. Now, Detroit schools are open 24 hours a day seven days a week training workers with a staff of 300 instructors, largely Ford-trained.

#### Garageman's "Scooter" Spins Car Wheel to Test Balance

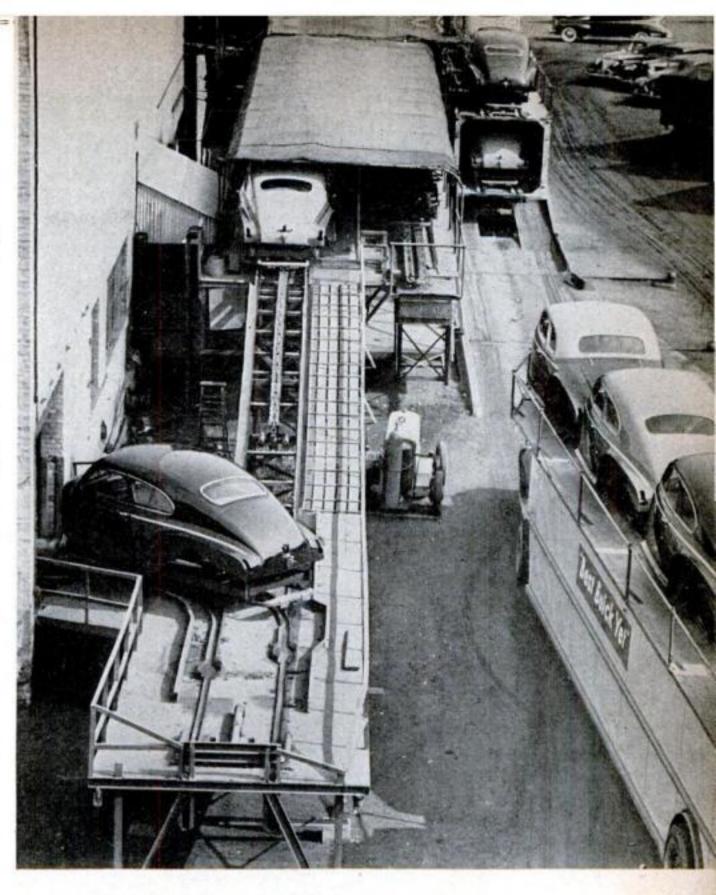


Testing an automobile wheel for balance with the handy new service device. A built-in electric motor turns the wheel at speeds as high as the equivalent of 125 miles an hour. Pedals control the motor and brake

MOUNTED astride what looks like a power scooter, the garage mechanic at left is testing the balance of a car wheel. When its built-in electric motor has been plugged into the nearest outlet, a spinner revolves the jacked-up wheel, simulating speeds up to 125 miles an hour. Controlling the motor with a foot lever, the operator thus can check the performance of the wheel upon its own spindle and bearings. A second pedal enables him to retard the speed of the wheel or bring it quickly to a full stop, applying a brake. Easily moved, the compact tester measures less than four feet long, three feet wide, and two feet high. It is attractively finished in enamel with cadmium-plated trim.

#### A Roller Coaster for Auto Bodies Speeds Assembly

A TWO-STORY traveling with bridge, equipped tracks like a roller coaster, is the latest secondsaver added to the assembly line of a big Flint, Mich., automobile plant. Trailers, carrying nine bodies at a time, arrive from the body works. They are pulled up on a ramp and the bridge slides into position behind them. The bodies, mounted on dollies, roll by gravity from the trailers onto the two-level tracks of the bridge, which then slides back into its original position. One after the other, the bodies roll down onto two levels of the assembly plant, swooping down the roller-coaster dip of the tracks, springing an automatic switch, and shunting themselves into the receiving room where the chassis are waiting.



#### Course Is Marked with Flour for Safe-Driving Contest



STRAIGHT lines of flour, laid down across a level field, provided a simple test for driving skill during a recent competition at Los Angeles, Calif. Each driver guided his machine down the level stretch, watching the lines of white dust and keeping his left wheels running along them. The marks left by the tires provided the judges with a check upon the accuracy with which the drivers kept their machines rolling along a perfectly straight course. Through this and other tests, the high-school boy and girl who handled their cars with the greatest skill were chosen the winners. competitions were held in other parts of the country, where other sectional winners were selected for the finals in a nationwide safe-driving contest held at Dearborn, Mich.

### EIGHT TIMESAVERS

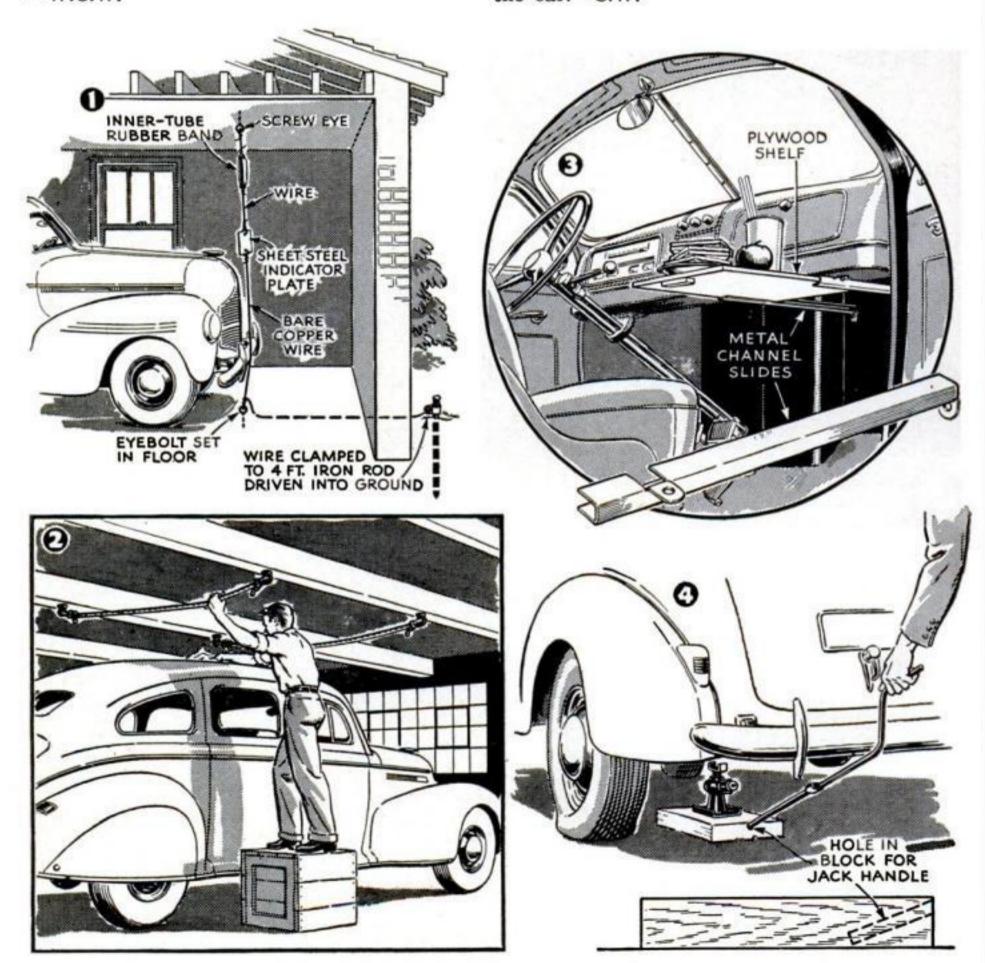
ANNOYING CAR STATIC is grounded by running a bare wire from the garage ceiling through an eyebolt in the floor to a pipe driven four feet into the ground and making contact with the car bumper. Connect a length of inner-tube rubber and a small plate of sheet steel or tin high in the wire for stretch and visibility.—E.G.M.

2 A CAR-WASHING AID, especially for cars built without running boards, is provided by stringing ropes across the garage ceiling. Standing on a box, you can hold on to a rope with one free hand while cleaning the top.

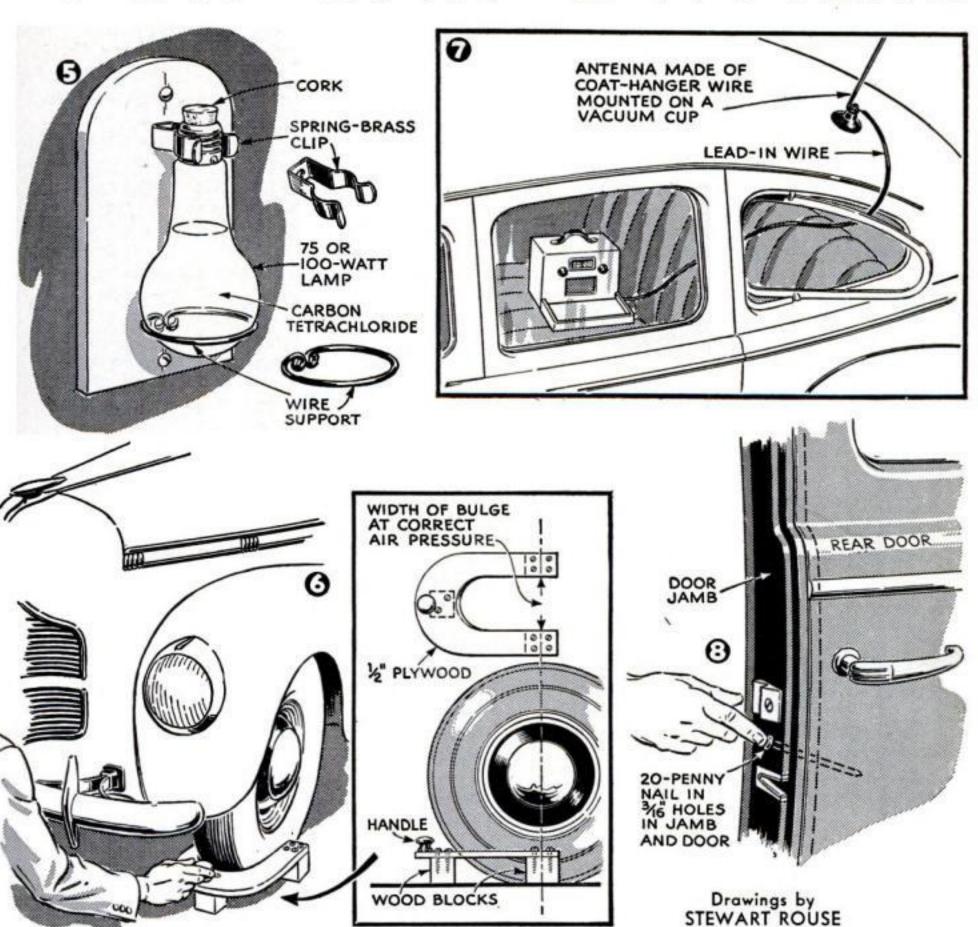
—W.C.W.

3 MANY USES ARE FOUND for a shelf that slides in or out beneath the dashboard. Made of three-ply wood sawed to fit the space available, it runs in channels of sheet metal which are bolted to the bottom of the dashboard. Drawn out, it is handy for lunching, writing, or other purposes. A small handle should be attached near the front of the underside.—J.S.

4 YOUR TIRE JACK can be slid under the axle more easily by putting it on a block of wood. Drill a hole at an angle to fit the jack handle, and use it to push the block under the car.—C.W.



### FOR CAR OWNERS



- 5 A FIRE EXTINGUISHER for your car can be made simply out of an old 75 or 100-watt electric light bulb. Saw off the inside of the base and remove the porcelain. Then break the end of the glass bulb in the base and shake out the inside parts. Fill with carbon tetrachloride, leaving space for expansion, seal with a cork, and mount under the dashboard. To use, throw the bulb hard at the center of the flames.—W.A.E.
- 6 TO TEST TIRE PRESSURE QUICKLY, a simple Ushape gauge cut from plywood to the exact width of your tires when pumped up to recommended pressure will be found useful. Mount the unit on three blocks of wood about three inches in height.—S.R.
- 7 PORTABLE RADIOS with built-in loop antennas will perform better in metal-roofed cars if used with an antenna which may be shaped as shown from coat-hanger wire and mounted on a vacuum cup outside a rear window. The insulated lead-in wire should be clipped to the antenna contact that deadens reception when touched with a bare finger.—R.E.C.
- 8 YOUNGSTERS CANNOT OPEN rear car doors with this lock. Drill a hole through the separating door post and into the edge of the rear door. Insert a heavy nail through the post into the door, which is then, in effect, nailed shut, and cannot be opened until the nail is removed.—N.F.W.

# Know Your Car's Ignition System

#### YOU CAN DO YOUR OWN TESTING WITH SIMPLE INSTRUMENTS

EARLY all ignition testing on your car can be done with instruments which you can assemble yourself in a few hours at a cost of only three or four dollars. However, you must first understand the construction and operation of the various parts of an ignition system—the coil, condenser, distributor, and spark plugs.

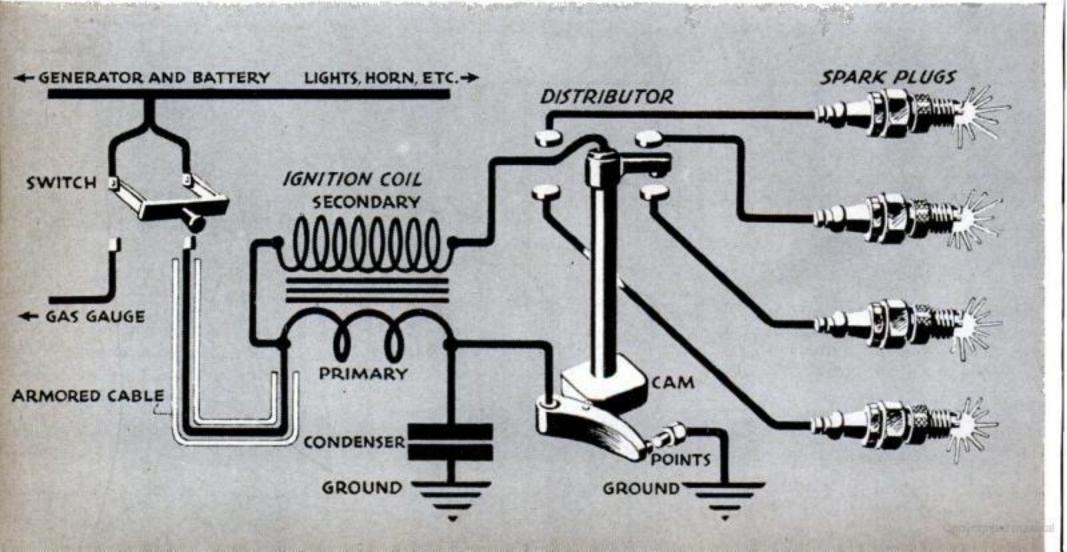
The ignition coil is a sort of transformer, which transforms the low voltage of the car battery to a voltage high enough to jump the gap at the spark plugs. It has a straight open core consisting of a bundle of iron wires. Around this is the primary winding, a few turns of relatively heavy wire, the two ends of which are brought out to the two low-tension terminals, usually of the screw type. Around the primary is the secondary winding, thousands of turns of very fine wire. One end of the secondary winding is brought out to the high-tension terminal, usually a socket. The other end is connected to the primary winding, which has the same effect as grounding it.

The condenser, usually mounted in or near the distributor, consists of two ribbons of tinfoil, separated by waxed paper, the whole rolled up into a compact bundle and inserted in a small metal can. One piece of tinfoil connects to the flexible wire which comes out of one end of the condenser; the other is grounded to the can. Electrically, the distributor consists of two entirely separate parts in one case. There is the distributor proper, which distributes the high-tension impulses from the secondary of the coil among the various spark plugs. Below this are the points, which control the current in the primary circuit.

The engine turns the distributor cam, which alternately opens and closes the distributor points. Every time the points close, a current starts to build up in the primary circuit. When the points open, current continues to flow for a very short time, but instead of flowing between the points, it flows through the condenser. When the condenser becomes charged, it stops the flow of current and then discharges, reversing the current flow. This sudden reversal of current in the primary winding induces a very high voltage in the secondary winding. This voltage is directed by the distributor to the spark plug of whichever cylinder is ready to fire.

In making a point-by-point check of an ailing ignition system, first see whether the proper current is flowing in the primary circuit. As long as the points are closed and the ignition switch is on, a current of four or five amperes should flow. This current can be checked by the ammeter on the instrument panel, but a better way is to connect another ammeter into the circuit

This simplified diagram shows the essential parts of an automobile ignition system and what they do



under the hood, where you can watch it while you work. When there is no current or very little current in the primary circuit, the most common reason is that the points are burned or pitted. You can check this by connecting a wire from the low-tension terminal on the side of the distributor to a "ground" on the engine. If the current increases, this indicates that the points have been offering resistance to the current.

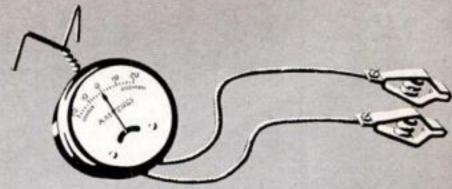
It is also important that the moment of opening of the points be correctly timed, since the spark at the plug occurs when the points open. The manufacturer's timing marks will help you.

There is usually an adjustment for turning the distributor housing to regulate the spark timing. For telling exactly when the points open, a 25-cent timing light is very helpful. This is clipped across the points (one clip to ground, the other to the low-tension terminal on the side of the distributor). The engine is then slowly turned over and the light goes on every time the points open.

If the primary current and timing are correct, the voltage developed by the secondary winding should be checked by inserting in the circuit an adjustable spark gap like the one shown. Disconnect the high-tension cable which runs from the coil to the center of the distributor, preferably the coil end, and connect the adjustable gap in the circuit. Set the points of the gap touching each other and, if possible, start the engine. Then slowly move the points apart until the engine stops. The distance between the points should then be 10 or 12 millimeters. If less than 10 millimeters the coil or condenser is probably at fault.

If the engine will not run, connect the adjustable spark gap directly from the high-tension terminal of the coil to a "ground" on the engine. Remove the distributor cap, turn the engine over until the points close, and then open and close them by hand. As the points open a spark should jump across the gap, if it is set at 10 millimeters or less.

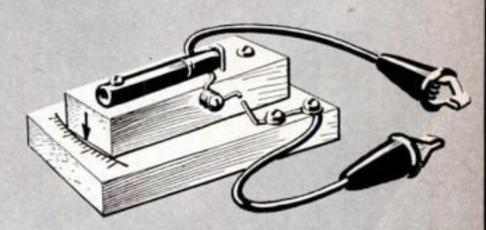
If an ignition system breaks down on the road and you can't find the reason right away, it may be very convenient to have along a coil-condenser set like the one shown. To use it, make sure that the distributor points are in good condition, then disconnect the condenser in the car, turn off the ignition switch to disconnect the coil, connect the three clips of the ignition set as shown in the picture, and move the high-tension lead from the coil in the car to the coil of the ignition set.—Dale Kelly.



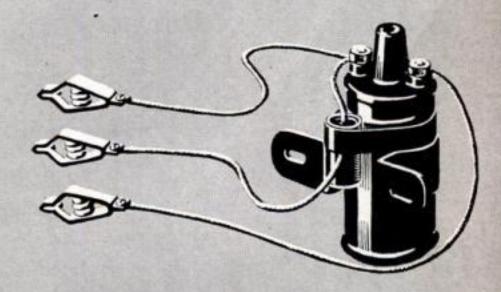
AMMETER. A secondhand one from an old car will be handy for many tests around your car. The hooks are for hanging it on a radiator brace rod under the hood, and the test clips make it easy to connect to any circuit on which you may be working



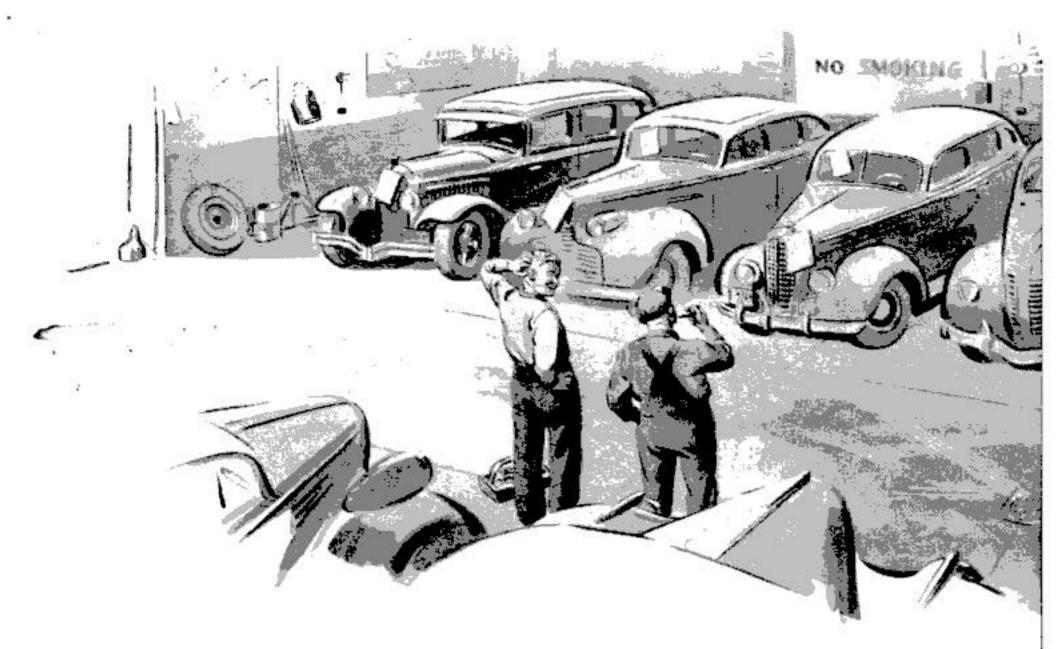
VOLTMETER. A couple of dollars ought to buy you one of these. It is useful for checking ignition points, generators, lights, and many other parts. The ordinary range of 0 to 7 volts is good enough, but a range of 0 to 10 volts is better



ADJUSTABLE SPARK GAP for checking voltage developed by the secondary winding. Moving the small block varies the gap from 0 to 15 millimeters. The lead from the neon-tube spark-plug tester should be connected toward current source



EMERGENCY IGNITION SET consists of a coil and condenser, taped together and equipped with flexible leads and clips. It's a handy thing to have along if your ignition system goes wrong on the road and you can't find what the trouble is



# GUS clears the way

Take it from the Wizard of the ModelGarage:Justbecauseyour muffler is uncomplaining, don't assume that it's healthy. It may be just suffering in silence!

#### MARTIN

HEN Gus Wilson got back to the Model Garage after an errand down V in the city one day last week, he found Bill, the mechanic, standing still in the middle of the shop floor, scratching his head as he stared at five cars lined up along the far wall. When he saw Gus he grinned. "Too much business, Boss," he said. "They all came in within the last half hour, and I'm darned if I know which one to start on."

Gus fired up his pipe and ran a knowing eye over the lineup. He recognized four of the cars, but the elderly sedan of an expensive make which stood near the door was a stranger to him. "What's the matter with 'em?" he asked.

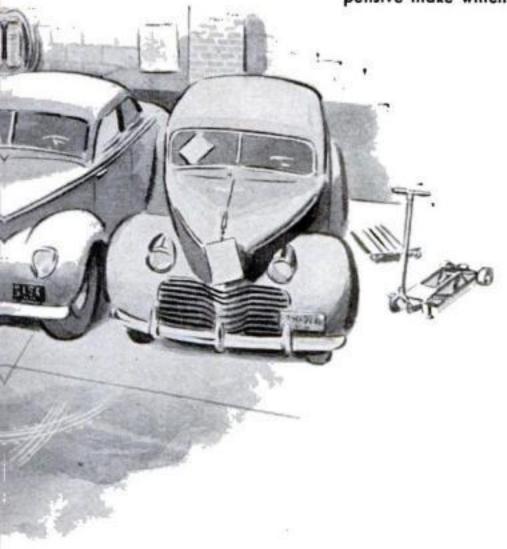
"Brakes need adjusting on the Miller job," Bill told him. "Say, that dame drives a car like she was ridin' a bronc' in a rodeo, don't she? Lighting-system checkup on Mr. Knowles's car-he says his headlights black out every time he steps on the dimmer button. Engine won't idle right on Hubbard's bus. That coupe of Dave Sledd's is using a lot too much oil-it might be a bad gasket, hey? I guess maybe I can take care of all of 'em, once I've decided where to make a start."

Gus nodded. "What about the other one?" he asked. "Who brought that in?" "Feller I don't know, but he asked for

you," Bill said. "He's in talking to Mr. Clark now."

Gus went into Joe Clark's office and found him in conversation with a scholarly looking middle-aged man who was perched comfortably on the corner of a desk. "Here he is now," Joe said when he saw his partner.

The visitor got off the desk and extended his hand. "My name's Folsom," he said. "Young Dick Coleman is in one of my Gus fired up his pipe and ran a knowing eye over the lineup. He recognized four of the cars, but the elderly sedan of expensive make which stood near the door was a stranger to him



classes at M.I.T. I was driving through town, and dropped off to say hello to him. I have been having trouble with my car for the last few hundred miles, and when I told him about it he suggested that I come in and see you. It's an old car, but it was a good one, and I never had any real trouble with it until yesterday afternoon. I've had it in three garages along the road, but none of them did it any good. Dick says that you are a champion trouble-shooter, so I thought . . ."

"Dick meant well," Gus said, "but he's put me on a spot. I can imagine myself taking an automotive problem to an M.I.T. professor, but I can't imagine myself solv-

ing one for him!"

Folsom laughed. "Possibly that would apply to some of our faculty men, but it doesn't apply to me," he disclaimed. "My subject is mathematics, and I don't know any more than the average car owner—perhaps I know less—about what goes on under the hood. As I was saying, in the three years I've been driving this particular car I've never had any serious trouble until yesterday. Then, without any warning, something happened which keeps it from going over 28 miles an hour. It's just as if there were a governor on the engine."

"Any unusual noise?" Gus wanted to know.

"Yes, there is," Folsom told him. "There's a queer sort of roaring sound that I've never heard before. But I haven't been able to locate its source."

"I'd better take a little ride," Gus decided. "Want to come?"

Folsom said he did. With Gus driving, they set off down the road. The car ran smooth as cream at 25 miles an hour. Then Gus pressed gently down on the accelerator pedal and watched the speedometer hand. It went up to the 28-mile notch—and it didn't go any farther. "By George," Gus said "this is a queer one. You're dead right. The engine acts as if it had a governor on it. Feels queer, too, as if something was holding the car back."

"Hear that noise?" Folsom asked.

Gus nodded. From somewhere under them came a dull roaring sound.

Gus turned the car and drove back to the shop. He got out, leaving the engine running. As he was about to raise the hood Joe Clark stuck his head in at the office door and called that he was wanted on the

telephone. "I'll only be a minute," he told Folsom.

When he came back in the shop after answering the 'phone, Gus saw that Folsom still was sitting in the car, and heard that the engine still was running. As he passed the rear end his quick ear caught a faint whistling noise. He cocked his head and listened. It seemed to come from the exhaust pipe.



Black soot came trickling out. "Pretty dirty," Folsom observed. "So that is what has been causing all my trouble." He held the palm of his hand an inch from the end of the tail pipe. The exhaust seemed normal. But Gus had an idea.

"Step on her, please," he called to Folsom. The engine picked up speed quickly—and then didn't pick up any more speed. The whistling sound grew louder and then deepened into the dull roar they had heard on the road. "Step on her harder," he called to Folsom.

Again Gus held his opened hand close to the end of the tail pipe. This time he didn't feel anything. There was no exhaust!

"Switch her off," he called. "I've got it —although I'm darned if I know just what it is that I've got. There is normal exhaust when your engine is idling, but none at all when you speed it up. What sort of condition is your muffler in, Mr. Folsom?"

Folsom had cut the engine and come around to the back of the car. "Muffler?" he repeated. "Why, I've never had any trouble with it. And, now that you mention it, I've never paid the slightest attention to it."

"Very few drivers ever do," Gus said. "And right there is where they make a big mistake. A car needs exhaust service just as much as it needs any other kind of service. As a matter of fact, the exhaust system deteriorates faster than almost any other part of a car. Most jobs need new mufflers after they've been driven twenty or thirty thousand miles. Why, more than half of the cars that come into this shop need exhaust service—they have dented or leaky or clogged mufflers, or their tail pipes are badly dented or pretty well rusted out, or they have leaky exhaust gaskets. But if you say anything about exhaust service to the average car owner he gets suspicious that you're trying to run up a bill on him. 'Oh,' he says, 'you mean the muffler. Let it go. It'll do all right for a while yet.'

"Hey, Bill! Help me get the muffler and exhaust pipe off Mr. Folsom's car, will you?" They took the muffler off, and Gus examined it carefully. "Doesn't look too

good—rusted almost through." He got a small mallet from his workbench and tapped the muffler gently with it. Black soot came trickling out.

"Pretty dirty," Folsom observed. "So that is what has been causing all my trouble."

Gus shook his head.
"No, it can't be that,"
he said. "It's dirty,
but it isn't entirely

clogged up. It isn't so simple as that."

He started to disassemble the muffler. "Hello!" he said. "Here's a baffle plate that's come loose. Let's see, now—by gum, that's it! See what has been happening?"

Folsom examined the muffler and the loose baffle plate. Then he shook his head. "No, I can't say that I do," he admitted.

"Look here," Gus said. He demonstrated as he talked. "While your engine is idling or running at low speed the pressure of the exhaust doesn't amount to much, and this loose baffle plate doesn't do any harm, although the exhaust getting around it makes that whistling sound I spotted when I walked past the rear end of your car while your engine was idling. But when you speed up your engine of course the pressure of the exhaust increases, and when you get up to 28 miles an hour it gets strong enough to press the loose plate against the rear end of the muffler, and hold it over the opening through which the exhaust should escape into the tail pipe. The burned gases which can't get out of the muffler build up a back pressure which acts as a governor on your engine. When you slow down the engine the exhaust pressure eases so that the loose plate isn't held against the end of the muffler and the burned gases can again get around it."

Gus reëxamined the muffler. "No use in trying to fix this," he decided. "It's too near done for to make it worth your while. What you need is a new muffler."

"Put it on, please," Folsom said. "And next time you're up Boston way drop in at M.I.T. and give us a lecture on expert automotive trouble-shooting!"

After Folsom had driven away Bill came over to the workbench where Gus was cutting a gasket. "Say, boss," he said, "what's all that stuff I heard you telling that feller about exhaust service? I've cleaned out my share of clogged mufflers in my time, but I never heard anyone call it exhaust service."

"What I call exhaust service," Gus told

him, "is a lot more than just cleaning out a dirty muffler after it has become so clogged that even a dumb driver realizes that there's something wrong with his car. The time to clean out an exhaust system -and, if it needs it, to repair or replace some of its parts-is before it causes any trouble." (Continued on page 218)

#### GUS SAYS:

I'm telling my customers it's a good time to have their cars put in A-1 shape—while we garage owners still have plenty of help! Next winter it may be tough to get good mechanics to do the work. Sure, it's helping me now, but car owners may thank me later!

# HOME AND WORKSHOP





ISTED below are the 30 winners selected by the jury of awards in the POPULAR SCIENCE \$1,000 house-planning contest.

In both quality and number, the entries far exceeded expectations. There were 3,307 house plans from every state in the Union, the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and various foreign countries (see P.S.M., Sept. '41, p. 156). The largest number of entries (342) was submitted by readers from the State of New York; next came California with 253, Ohio with 241, Pennsylvania with 238, and Illinois with 203.

Unexpectedly, a young woman carried off

first honors. Still more remarkable is the fact that the first four prize winners live in Illinois, and two of them in the same town. This is a coincidence, since each entry was considered on its intrinsic merits, without regard to personalities, localities, or skill in draftsmanship and literary presentation.

Details of the competition were announced in the issues of February, March, and April, 1941. The jury of awards consisted of three nationally known architects, Ely Jacques Kahn, Cameron Clark, and Frederick J. Woodbridge, together with Charles McLendon, editor-in-chief of POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY, and Arthur Wakeling, editor of the Home

and Workshop Department.

In the following article, Henry H. Saylor, who acted as technical adviser on procedure, tells how the jury of awards reached its decisions. Beginning on page 142, Greville Rickard, architectural consultant of Popular Science, gives a general survey of the contest. On pages 146 and 147 is a picture story about the first-prize winner, followed by the plans and specifications of the first-prize house (pages 148-152).

The second-prize house will be described in detail next month, and the third-prize house in the December issue.

#### FIRST PRIZE, \$500

Mrs. Charles T. Grace, Champaign, III.

SECOND PRIZE, \$200 Charles Richard Hogan, Chicago, III.

THIRD PRIZE, \$100
George and Margaret Mallory, Evanston, III.

J. P. Callmer, Champaign, III.

FIFTH PRIZE, \$25

Joseph Sward, San Francisco, Calif.

#### TWENTY-FIVE PRIZES OF \$5 EACH

Kathleen Wheeler Atterbury, Palo Alto, Calif.
John Bartholomew, Romeo, Mich.
Henry N. Betjemann, Sayville, N. Y.
John Blesch, Fresno, Calif.
Gordon T. Brown, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Paul J. Burns, Elyria, Ohio
William G. Cleland, Jr., Mt. Lebanon, Penn.
Ira E. Cummings, Salt Lake City, Utah
Philip Louis Cuskley, Portland, Me.
Henry H. Davis, Jr., Edmonston, Md.
Dorothy Dow, Rockport, Mass.
Robert G. Fleury, Jr., B.ooklyn, N. Y.

ury, Palo Alto, Calif.

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iio

Mt. Lebanon, Penn.

ke City, Utah

lland, Me.

onston, Md.

Mass.

oklyn, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Milosh G. Vuinovich, Jersey, City, N. J.

Arthur Greenbaum, Miami, Fla.

Mrs. Henry Keinen, New York, N. Y.

Robert Hugo Klamer, Lincoln, Neb.

John W. Knobel, Ozone Park, N. Y.

Roland K. Kuechle, Columbus, Ohio

William Lohrand, Barberton, Ohio

Mrs. W. P. MacLean, Berwyn, Ill.

Marie and Ralph Nelson, New Rochelle, N. Y.

William J. Newton, El Monte, Calif.

A. D. Roberts, Alhambra, Calif.

Edythe Heritage Rosenberger, El Cajon, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Milosh G. Vuinovich, Jersey, City, N. J.



The three distinguished American architects who served on the jury of awards. Left to right, Frederick J. Woodbridge, president, Architectural League of New York; Ely Jacques Kahn, and Cameron Clark

### How Prize-Winning Homes Were Selected

By HENRY H. SAYLOR, A.I.A.

N FACING their task of selecting the winners in the house-planning contest, the judges agreed upon several basic facts. The competition differed radically from the usual tests of architectural skill. It called, not for a display of technical knowledge regarding building, but rather for a layman's indication of what he or she wanted in a house—the sort of information a prospective home builder would put together in notes and rough sketches to get his own ideas across to his architect.

In purpose, the contest was to make people visualize their individual home-making needs; it was not intended or expected that they would create an architectural masterpiece.

Particularly surprising, in the judges' observations, was the fact that so many contestants knew something about architectural

presentation and its own peculiar vocabulary of graphic forms of expression. Of course, among the three thousand odd entries, there were some from architectural students, interior decorators, engineers, and others with some knowledge of mechanical drawing, but the jury was not to be influenced by clever drawing or sophisticated presentation.

When an unusually fine piece of presentation appeared before the jury, it came in for special scrutiny. If it had come from an architect, it would have to be rejected, in accordance with the conditions of the contest. In doubtful cases among the schemes being considered as prize-winning possibilities, POPULAR SCIENCE made sure by investigation that the contestant was eligible under the rules.

Naturally, in this great accumulation of layman home-building ideas, there were many of the errors common to the untrained technician, but these were not held against the contestants excepting as they indicated failure to think through the purposes of various rooms, intercommunication, sun, breezes, view, and other obvious necessities

of planning. For example, some contestants indicated bedroom layouts in which there was not enough space for beds; others subdivided what would have been adequate dining space into dining room and breakfast



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nook, neither of which would have served its purpose; another common mistake was the location of living room so completely in the

center of things as to leave it little or no outside light and ventilation.

The intricacies of stair design, as was to be expected, proved too much for a good many contestants, almost always with the result that the necessary space for headroom was sadly underestimated.

Nevertheless, shortcomings of this character were not held against the competitor. He or she was not supposed to have the technical knowledge to avoid them. Minor errors of space provision, intricacies of roof design, proper spacing of window and door openings—these were considered the sort of things that an architect would naturally correct if the scheme proceeded to the stage of actual construction.

Members of the jury kept open minds both as to the use of historic styles or their avoidance. Nevertheless, they looked askance at attempts to put a Dutch Colonial design in Southern California, or a pueblo house on the coast of Maine. There were not a great many submissions of this kind. More frequent were the examples which had been given insufficient thought in planning.

To take a concrete example, we illustrate on the facing page the plan of one prospective home owner's house of dreams. Juror A made this comment: "Here's a scheme that has been carefully planned as to the relationship of its various elements, and the result is a house of which many owners might justly be proud."

Juror B: "True enough, but notice what would happen to his living room; it becomes little better than a thoroughfare. Family or guests entering, or going into the bedroom end, would have practically to tramp all over a little group of two or three seated around the fireplace."

Juror C: "Yes, I'm afraid that cannot be rated very highly in spite of its other merits. What we are looking for here is an arrangement of space suited to the competitor's individual family needs. This particular one wouldn't work out successfully for his family or for any other. Yet any architect could alter the plan without much difficulty, so let's give the contestant what credit we can for the features that are well designed."

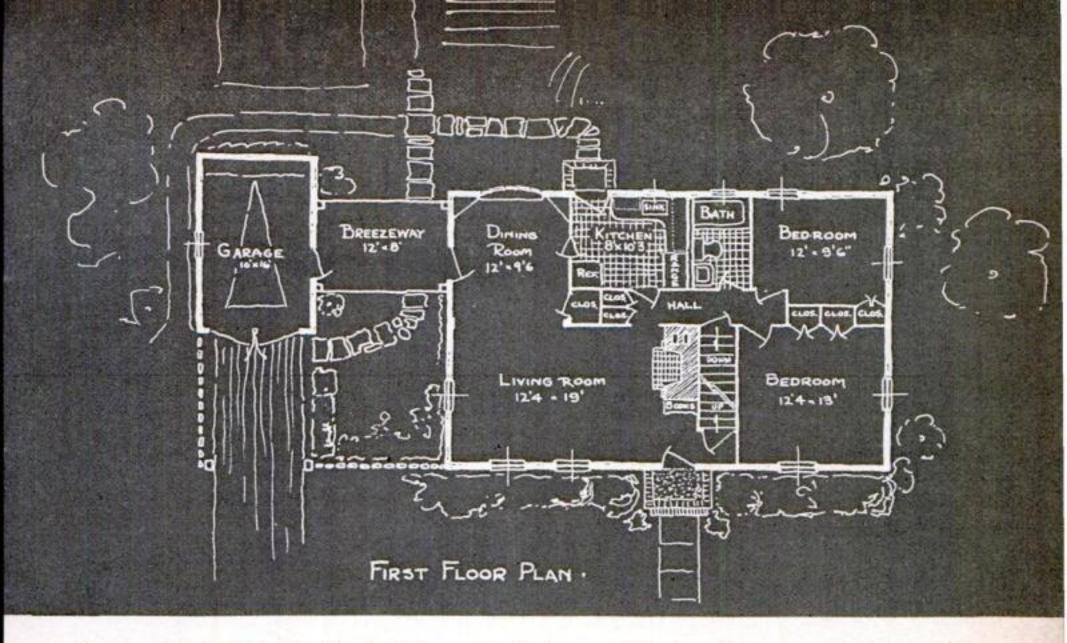
But let us get on to the first-prize scheme, and see what the judges really liked. The floor plan (see page 148) certainly does not fall into any of the widely followed types. Here surely is individuality. There is no suggestion of the central hall type—living room on one side, kitchen and dining room on the other. Nor is there any possibility that the competitor started with a preconceived exterior mass and subdivided it inside to suit. Rather is the plan the logical—almost inevitable—result of fitting space needs and intercommunication to a family's way of living.

Notice how definitely the kitchen has been made the bridge of the ship. This is not a two-maid house, nor a one-maid one, for the housewife proposes to run it herself, and she can run it properly from that bridge. If a visitor approaches, the broad kitchen windows tell whether it be friend or peddler, and it is but a few steps to the front door and a suitable greeting. That kitchen invites the morning sun; it is a pleasant place to work. Its table and seat are for the hurried breakfast, in comfort and convenience rather than formality.

If laundry work is to be done after breakfast, there is the sunlit laboratory for that purpose, also looking out over the wide flow-

For judging, the entries were spread out on tables. The architectural jurors are seated; standing, left to right, are Arthur Wakeling, Greville Rickard, and Charles McLendon, editor of POPULAR SCIENCE





Can you find the defect in this plan? It was submitted as part of a beautifully prepared and highly meritorious entry, but the jurors, as explained by Mr. Saylor, would not consider it for a major prize

er planting of the east front. A groundfloor laundry—comparatively rare these
days—always bears witness to the fact that
the housewife really knows what she wants,
and isn't going to be talked into putting tubs
and machine aids into some unused corner
of the cellar, just for economy's sake.

The judges liked the way in which dining space has the suggestion of its own particular area, yet shares it for the more frequent needs of the living room. Close by it, beyond folding doors, the terrace beckons to outdoor meals, and these can be served from the kitchen without going through the dining space.

One of the cleverest features of the plan is the space marked "service hall." It really isn't a hall, set aside for transportation only. It is a fully usable part of both kitchen and laundry, and is just the sort of dual-purpose space that architects constantly strive to attain. Notice that by opening all or half of the Dutch door leading to the terrace, cross ventilation is provided for kitchen and laundry.

There are points worthy of notice in every part of this carefully evolved plan. Sleeping quarters are off by themselves, with bath as close to both rooms as it could be without that troublesome expedient of the two-door bath. Here, it also serves as a front hall lavatory for the family or the casual visitor.

One drives into the garage and finds an inside door convenient both to housewife laden with groceries and to the master seeking

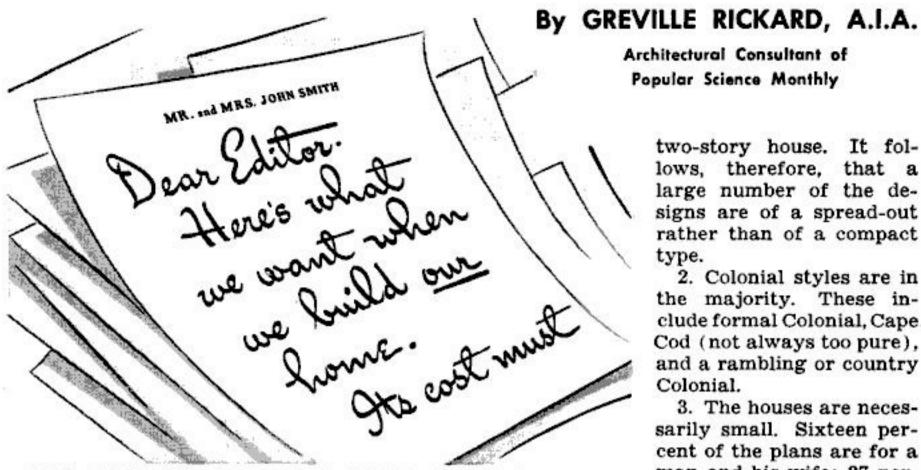
his terrace chair after the day's hard work.

See how effectually the fireplace and its seats are organized against traffic. Clever also is the location of the heater room, with its flue passing over the hall ceiling into the single chimney. And in this same heater room is the master's photographic dark-room—so made by pulling a slide across the glass blocks that give it light from the entrance shelter. And another evidence of the home-loving male is the workbench in the garage.

Guest room also joins the dual-purpose ranks in serving as a study and writing room. Notice that the bedroom closets have not only the properly proportioned space for hanging clothing, but also a tier of drawers.

Just because this prize-winning plan is so good for the family of two that will use it, just so should it be carefully examined before some other family, with differing needs and habits of life, adopts it as a pattern to be blindly followed. It will not serve all needs. Others might find it more expedient to practice the economy of putting bedrooms and bath on a second floor, or a sloping site might call for a basement garage.

Next month, and in the issues to follow, other prize winners will be shown and analyzed. No two are even faintly alike; each is the answer to a prospective owner's individual needs and desires. Careful study of these results should be an ideal way of setting in order the reader's own ideas of what he wants in a house, and why.



#### AN ANALYSIS OF CONTEST ENTRIES

ERHAPS no other occasion has presented itself quite like that afforded by the home-planning competition of POPULAR SCIENCE by which we are able to visualize what the average person wants when he sets out to build a house.

Architects have definite ideas, based on countless technical studies, as to what constitutes a desirable house for the average family. Speculative builders, on their part, have never left us in doubt as to the sort of house they believe can be sold with the greatest ease and profit to Mr. and Mrs. John Smith. Now, however, Mr. and Mrs. John Smith have come out and spoken for themselves. They really know what they want!

By taking a cross section of the 3,307 entries, we have been able to analyze in great detail the preferences of the contestants. What stands out most conspicuously is the high standard of living represented by this readership. The families have comparatively good incomes; they have children; they want well-built, substantial houses; they insist upon modern equipment and conveniences. This is all the more pointed because the contest rules purposely limited the cost of the house to \$10,000 maximum, thus eliminating any consideration of expensive residences and incomes in the higher brackets.

Here are the trends revealed by our study of the entries:

 A preference for bungalows. Out of every twenty-three contestants, ten say they want a one-story bungalow, five favor a storyand-a-half house of bungalow style, and eight want a two-story house. It follows, therefore, that a large number of the designs are of a spread-out rather than of a compact

type.

Colonial styles are in the majority. These include formal Colonial, Cape Cod (not always too pure), and a rambling or country Colonial.

The houses are necessarily small. Sixteen percent of the plans are for a man and his wife; 27 percent are for a family of three; 35 percent for a

family of four; 15 percent for five, and 7 percent for six.

- The cost of the majority of the houses, as estimated by the contestants, ranges from \$5,000 to \$8,000, exclusive of land.
- The sizes fall for the most part between 15,000 and 24,000 cubic feet.
- 6. The average number of rooms is five, which means living room, dining room, kitchen, and two bedrooms.
- 7. Living rooms, in their shapes, vary as much as the houses. They do, however, show certain tendencies. Though variable in sizes, we find the average to be 14' 5" wide by 21' 8" long. This indicates a preference for the rectangle, but illustrates, too, an interesting point. An oft-taught theory has it that an agreeably shaped rectangle or room is one in which its length is 11/2 times its width. Observe how closely this coincides with our tabulation: 14' 5" plus 7'  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "=21'  $7\frac{1}{2}$ " (almost 21' 8"). Living rooms often include dining areas at one end or tucked aside in the wing of an L. Windows are numerous and of all types—narrow and wide, extended into bays, sometimes taking in the side of a room and running around the corner. The fireplace is practically a "must" feature.
- 8. The average size of the kitchen turns out to be 9' 8" by 13' 2", indicating here, too, a preference for the rectangle, which is well recognized to be step-saving and easy of cir-

culation. Much good planning has gone into these kitchens, and the latest in convenient and serviceable equipment has been provided. This generally includes a double sink, cabinets, gas range or electric range, re-



POPULAR SCIENCE

frigerator, and automatic hot-water supply.

9. The most modern equipment throughout has, in fact, been insisted upon by almost all contestants. In the heating of the house, one out of every seven contestants desires air-conditioning (what is often called enforced hot air). Almost as many wish to have hot air. A great many do not specify the type of heating plant, but apparently intend to use either steam or hot water. As to fuel, one out of four desires oil, and one out of slightly more than five prefers gas. Coal is mentioned in about the same ratio as gas, and one in every seventeen calls for an automatic stoker.

10. In the department of plumbing, for every three who specify brass for water piping, six name copper, and five galvanized iron.

11. Waterproofing in cellar walls has been specified by one in every eight; and out of every five, two intend to have insulation in their outer walls and roof. Rock-wool batts and insulating board are the types of insulation most frequently named.

12. As to outside walls, they are generally of familiar materials. Clapboards take a popular lead, being called for more than three times as often as any other type.

Then come brick veneer, shingles, and stucco in about equal amounts; next, concrete blocks (sometimes stuccoed), and vertical siding, this often being mixed with brick or clapboards; then, in lesser demand, stone, and more rarely, plywood. Glass blocks are used only at times for sections of wall, but one in seven mentions them for some purpose—a remarkable indication of their growing popularity.

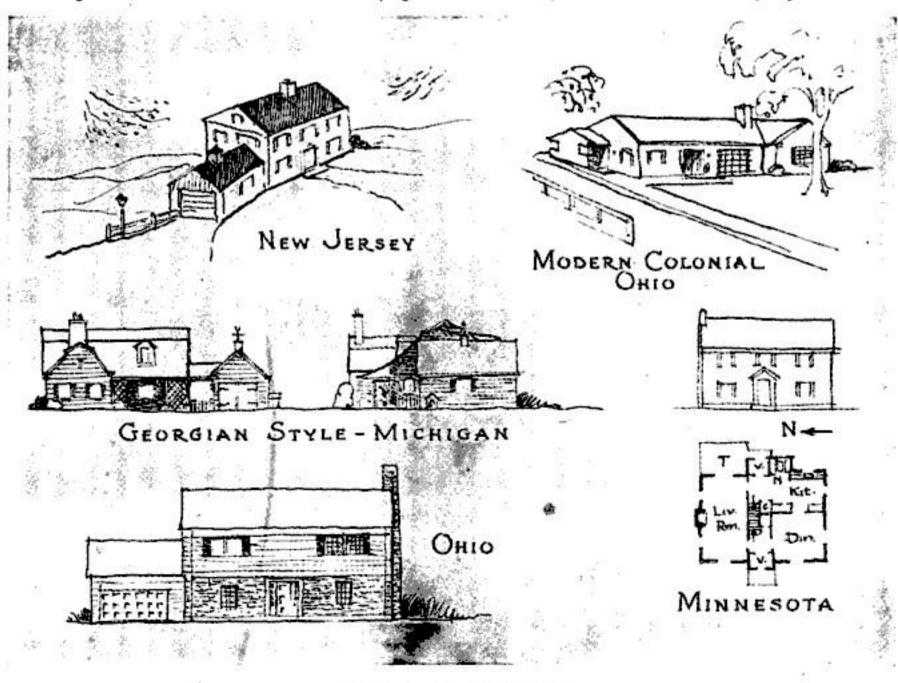
13. As covering for roofs, wooden shingles are in the lead. Almost a third ask for shingles, a fourth for slate, an eighth for asphalt, and the remainder for composition, asbestos, and tile.

So much for the high lights of the contest! When it comes to details of site, family, character of house, and its plan arrangement, our facts divide themselves naturally under the following headings:

Building sites. Indications are that most of the contestants intend to build in towns and suburbs on lots of definite size, though a few obviously have country property in mind.

Cost. The maximum cost of building the house, as specified in the rules, was \$10,000. In at least two instances a contestant who might well have won a prize was disqualified

COLONIAL-STYLE HOMES stand first in popularity. The thumb-nail sketches below illustrate basic elements of five designs submitted by contestants who live in the states noted. These vivid little drawings, as well as those on the next two pages, were made by Mr. Rickard while analyzing the entries





because his design, if built, would be found to cost more than \$10,000, as the judges discovered when they checked the cubage. An architect is apt to

suspect that not a few of the contestants, when the time comes to build, will have to increase their budget or forego some of the expensive equipment they have specified.

Family income. Related to costs, of course, are incomes. Thirty percent of the contestants say they have incomes under \$2,000; 38 percent from \$2,000 to \$3,000; 26 percent from \$3,000 to \$5,000; and 6 percent from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Architectural styles. Here an amazing diversity of taste is revealed. The flat-roofed, or so-called "modern" style, however, is not generally popular. Only one in fifteen falls in that category. Most of these, too, prove to be less functional, that is, to have more impractical features of planning, if anything, than designs of other types. Details of modern trend, nevertheless, do appear in some designs of traditional background; for example, long horizontal window panes, or corner windows, in what might ordinarily be termed a Colonial house.

The diversity in styles defies tabulation, and the crossing of these trends invites the frequent use of the hyphen. As pointed out, the Colonial style is well in the lead. A number of designs are well spread out, and among these a favorite feature is the covered passageway leading from garage to house.

Extremely popular is what may be termed the "Cape Cod" type of house, with, however, two front dormers, and a lean-to dormer behind, adding space to the second floor. The obvious subterfuge of this building trick is always disliked by architects, it being obvious that the skimpy strip of roof at the gable end tells a false story as to the actual shape of the house.

One conclusion to be drawn is that most contestants, even among the first 100, would be well repaid in seeking the



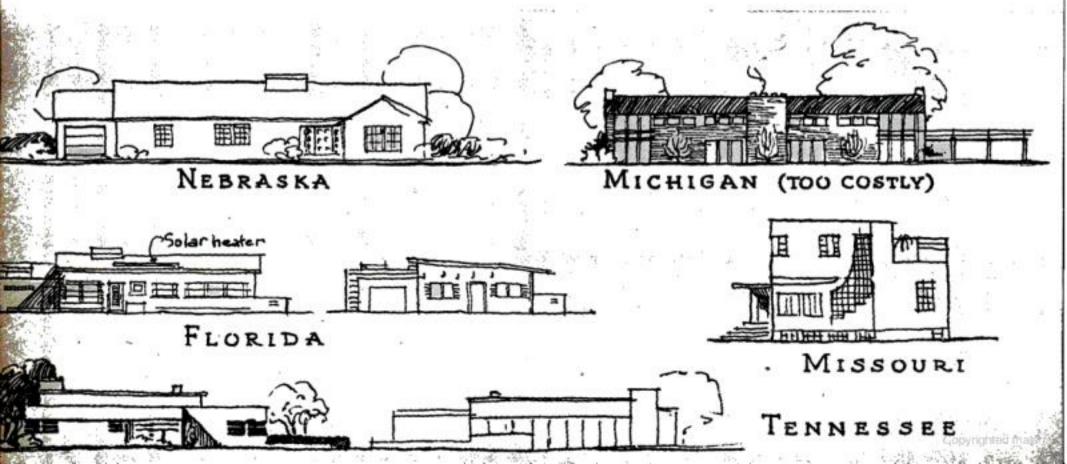
Cape Cod houses are often distorted with a large rear dormer—bad because the gable end is deceptive in shape

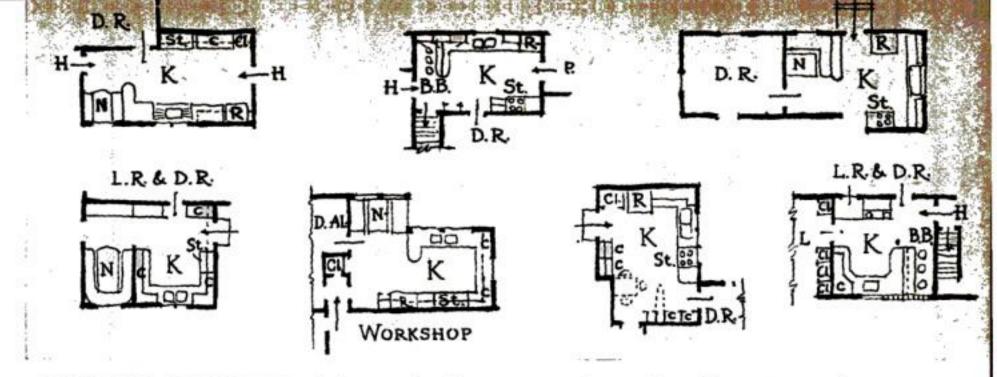
advice of an architect before building. They might thus save themselves from making serious mistakes. (Some of these mistakes, by the way, will be discussed in a future article.) Architectural advice would safeguard them against the innumerable hazards of building and protect their investments by insuring them of full value for every dollar spent.

Floor plans. As a rule the plans are superior to the exterior designs. In a broad sense, they are generally sound. Again and again we enter, directly or indirectly, a long living room, and see a dining room or dining space off to one side or behind. Beyond that is the kitchen; then to the other side of the house, connected by a passage, are two bedrooms with bathroom between. Occasionally there are three bedrooms. Sometimes there are two or three bedrooms upstairs, or provision for future rooms is made. Out of every nineteen contestants, twelve want two bedrooms, six require three, while one would like four.

Surprisingly, many reveal a willingness to forego the convenience of an entrance hall with coat closet nearby.

MODERN DESIGNS were in the minority; nevertheless almost every variety was represented. Here are a few from various states. The one from Michigan has considerable merit, but could not be built for \$10,000, the contest maximum. Strange to say, some modern designs were far from being functional





SEVEN TYPES OF KITCHENS picked at random from contestants' picns. The abbreviations used are as follows: B.B., breakfast bar; C, cabinet; Cl., closet; D.Al., dining alcove; D.R., dining room; H, hall; K, kitchen; L, laundry; L.R., living room; N, dining nook; P, porch; R, refrigerator; St., stove

In making a choice between a separate dining room and dining space in the living room, the contestants are divided almost evenly. Out of every twenty-one plans, ten contain a dining room, nine provide only for dining space, and two compromise with a dining alcove. The breakfast nook is a generally desired feature and, of course, is included in many of the plans, generally at one end of the kitchen.

The rambling western house often has no cellar, and so the laundry is placed on the first floor. In houses with cellars, the laundry room is usually in the basement. The ratio of upstairs laundries to downstairs laundries is as 19 to 27.

Large cellars usually include workshops, darkrooms, and game rooms, while in cellarless houses some of these features are included in the ground-floor plan, the workbench often being tucked into the garage. Some have called the workroom a "hobby lobby." Thirty-nine percent of the contestants call for built-in workshops, 7 percent for built-in darkrooms, and 11 percent defi-

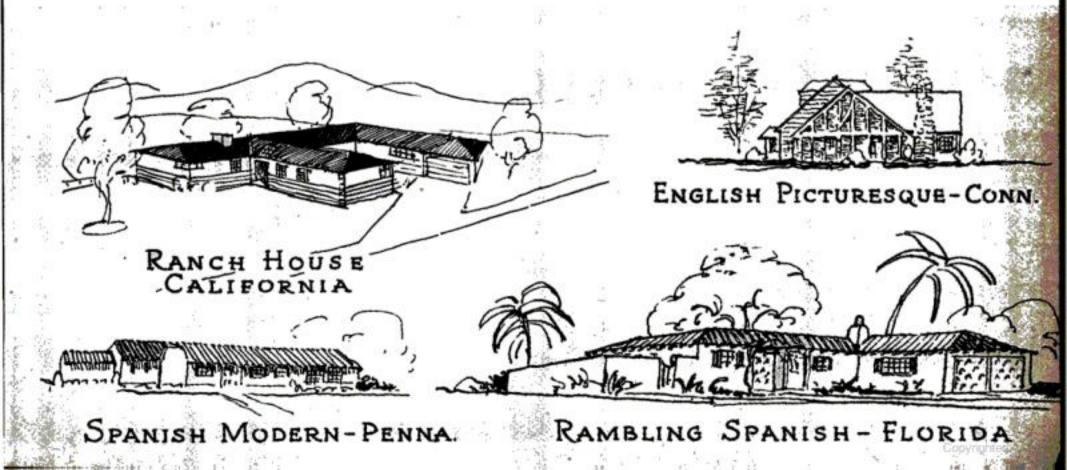
nitely plan to have a space for a sewing machine.

The second floor is sometimes given added importance by the inclusion of a living room, a game room, or a "rumpus retreat." One woman aptly designated a second-floor space in a wing as the "get-away-from-it-all room."

A porch on the second floor is surprisingly neglected, in view of its popularity in recent years. Plans of a distinctively modern type, however, make much of the second-floor terrace, separated only by glass from bedrooms behind.

This discussion of the many phases of a house could go on without end into its minor details, but space does not permit. It is to be hoped, however, that the picture given in the foregoing paragraphs may be useful to the home-building reader in knowing something of what the other fellow desires in his home. May he find as much satisfaction in building as many of the contestants acknowledge they have experienced in working out their plans!

MISCELLANEOUS DESIGNS of all kinds were submitted. In one classification were what may be called "picturesque" houses. Another group consisted of low, rambling Western designs and ranch houses. A few Spanish and Italian styles came from Florida and elsewhere, and there were many good cottages





magazine appeared with the announcement of the contest, her husband called her attention to it. During the next two months, Mrs. Grace spent more than 150 hours developing her design. She discarded

Mrs. Grace spreads out a number of her preliminary studies. On some days she kept at her task for ten hours—four in the morning, four in the afternoon, and two more at night

spent more than 150 hours developing her design. She discarded half a dozen plans, and reworked the final one fifteen times. Seated at a card table in one corner of the living room, she sketched the original drawings on scratch paper and inked in

The house plan she entered in the contest was specially design-

the finished drawings

on Bristol board.

ed for a 100' by 150' lot on the outskirts of Champaign. White brick was chosen for the exterior because brick is widely used in her native state, Colorado, and because there were a number of brick dwellings in the neighborhood of the chosen lot.

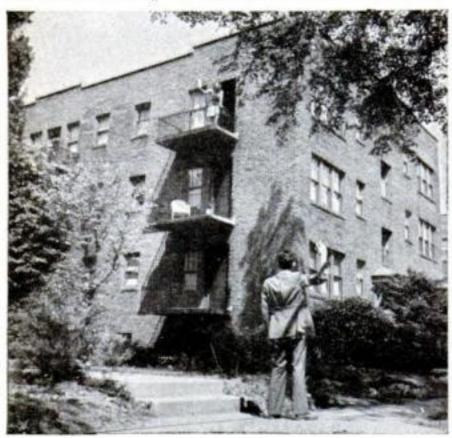
The living room in their "one-and-three-quarter room" apartment, for which they pay \$45 a month

#### REWORKED HER DESIGN FIFTEEN TIMES

RS. CHARLES T. GRACE, of Champaign, Ill., winner of first prize in our house-planning contest, is the 23-year-old wife of a mechanical-engineering instructor at the University of Illinois.

On the day the February issue of the

The winner waves the prize notification to tell her husband the good news as he returns from work





The easiest part was dining room and living room. The hardest proved to be the bedrooms. A camera range finder, which Mrs. Grace gave her husband for Christmas, proved of help in judging distances.

In the design of the house, her husband had only two "must" suggestions. He wanted a home-workshop bench in the garage and a darkroom near the furnace. Photography and inventing things are his hobbies.

Mrs. Grace was born in Denver, Colo. In

Winner

high school and at the University of Colorado, which both she and her husband attended, she specialized in mathematics and engineer-

ing. While other girls were taking courses in cooking and dressmaking, she was studying plumbing, civil engineering, and steel construction. After her marriage in 1937, she completed work for a B. S. degree in architectural engineering at the University of Illinois. In many of her courses, she was the only girl in class. High marks made her a member of the Phi Kappa Phi honorary society. During her last semester, she received one of the Plym prizes for her work in steel construction and design.

> At present, the best bet as to what the Graces will do with the prize money is: Buy the \$500 lot for which the house was designed.

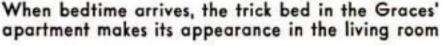


Off for the bowling alleys. Mrs. Grace bowls for sport and exercise. Her score is around 120



Her present kitchen isn't bad, but compare it with the one she will have in her new home (next page)

When bedtime arrives, the trick bed in the Graces'

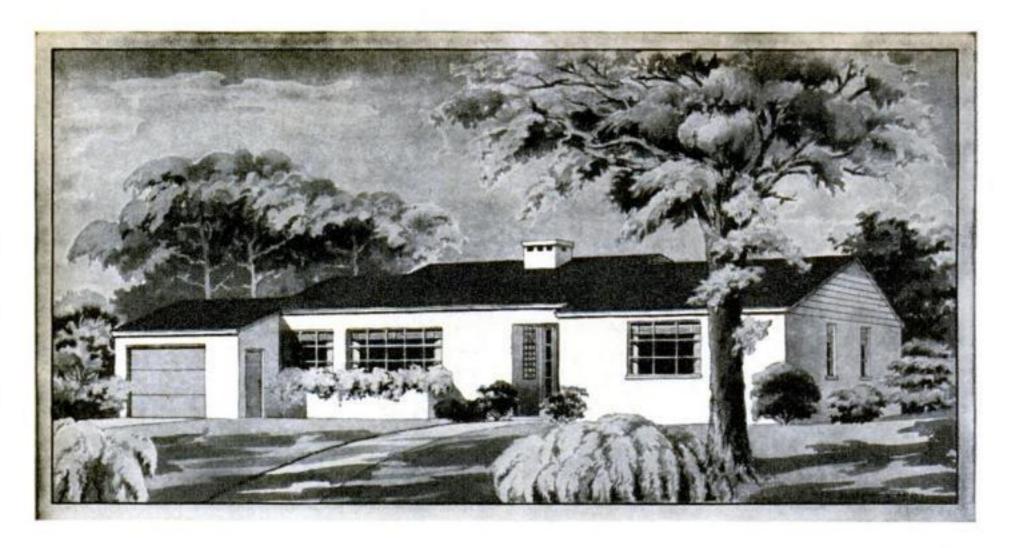




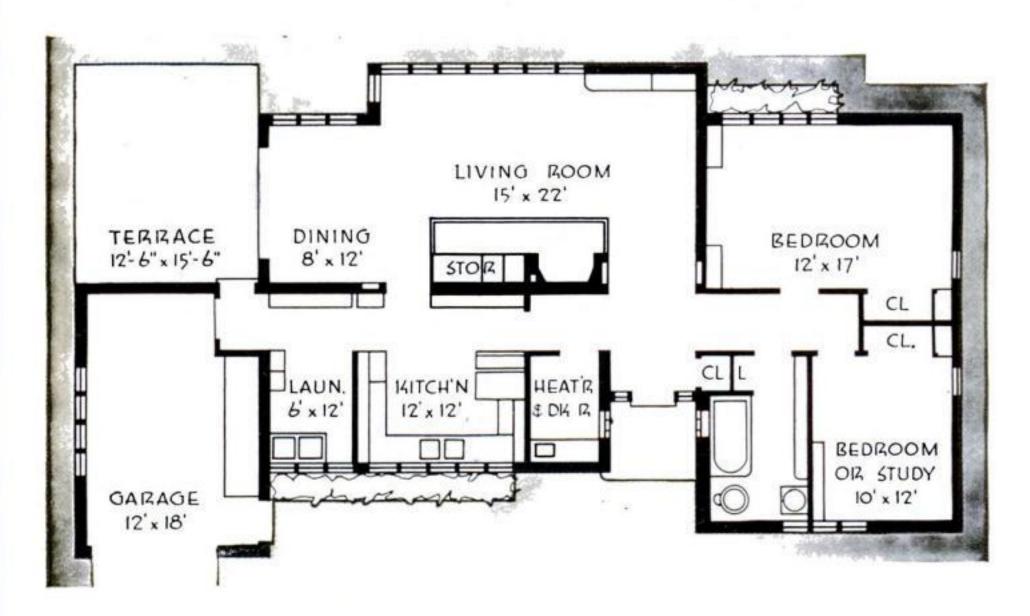
To estimate distance, Mrs. Grace used a camera range finder she gave her husband last Christmas



HOME OWNERS



Planned for a 100' by 150' plot, Mrs. Grace's house is low and of irregular shape. Its maximum outside dimensions are 35' by 62'. The walls are of common brick, painted white; the roofing is blue asphalt



A study of this simplified floor plan reveals the extraordinary skill with which Mrs. Grace designed the house to suit the needs of her husband and herself and to take full advantage of the building plot. Note, for example, that any part of the house may be reached from the front entrance without passing through any other rooms. Mrs. Grace believes optimistically that the house could be built for \$5,950, but an estimate on the basis of 35 cents a cubic foot places the cost nearer \$7,000

# FIRST-PRIZE HOME

Here is Mrs. Charles T. Grace's own description of her exceptionally convenient and economical one-floor house plan

THIS is the home we'd like to build. We've planned and replanned every feature and requirement until both my husband and I feel we've settled on just what we want and need.

The lot we'd like to build our house on is at the edge of town with a view of fields and farms sloping away to the west and southwest. The lot itself, 100' by 150', would cost from \$500 to \$750. The maximum outside dimensions of the house are 35' by 62'. We figure the house would cost \$5,950. That would make the total price of house and lot roughly \$6,450 to \$6,700, or within the range of about three times our yearly income.

We think that our plan has many advantages. It's small, just right for the two of us, and yet we'd never be overcrowded when we had company.

The house may be entered directly from the garage through the service hall for bringing in supplies, or by the front-door path.

The plan is economical. There is no waste hall space, the service hall being really a part of the kitchen and laundry room, yet not interfering with the circulation in those areas.

Any part of our house may be reached from the front entrance hall without going through any other rooms. The front door is near the kitchen to save steps in answering the bell.

Our large bedroom is ample in size for lounging as well as sleeping. It gains privacy by being at the back of the house and at the same time takes advantage of the view of open sunlit fields to the west. The spare bedroom or study could be adapted to a larger family. And there is plenty of closet and storage space.

The living areas take full advantage of the view to the west and southwest, and the

outdoor terrace can be easily served from the kitchen if we should want to eat there. This terrace really makes our living and dining area seem part of the outdoors, as do the built-in planting boxes under kitchen and bedroom windows. We can follow the sun with our

meals. The breakfast table in the kitchen has the morning sun. The dining room is easily furnished without seeming over-crowded.

The bath is accessible from all parts of the house, yet is separate from the living and dining areas.

The heater room is centrally located, making possible economic heating of all the rooms (garage included) from two main ducts with one branch from each. Yes, every room has cross ventilation—something not always found in one-floor houses.

Moreover, our house would fit in with other houses in the neighborhood as well as with the landscape. We feel that it is modern without seeming cold and ugly.

We have definite requirements of construction:

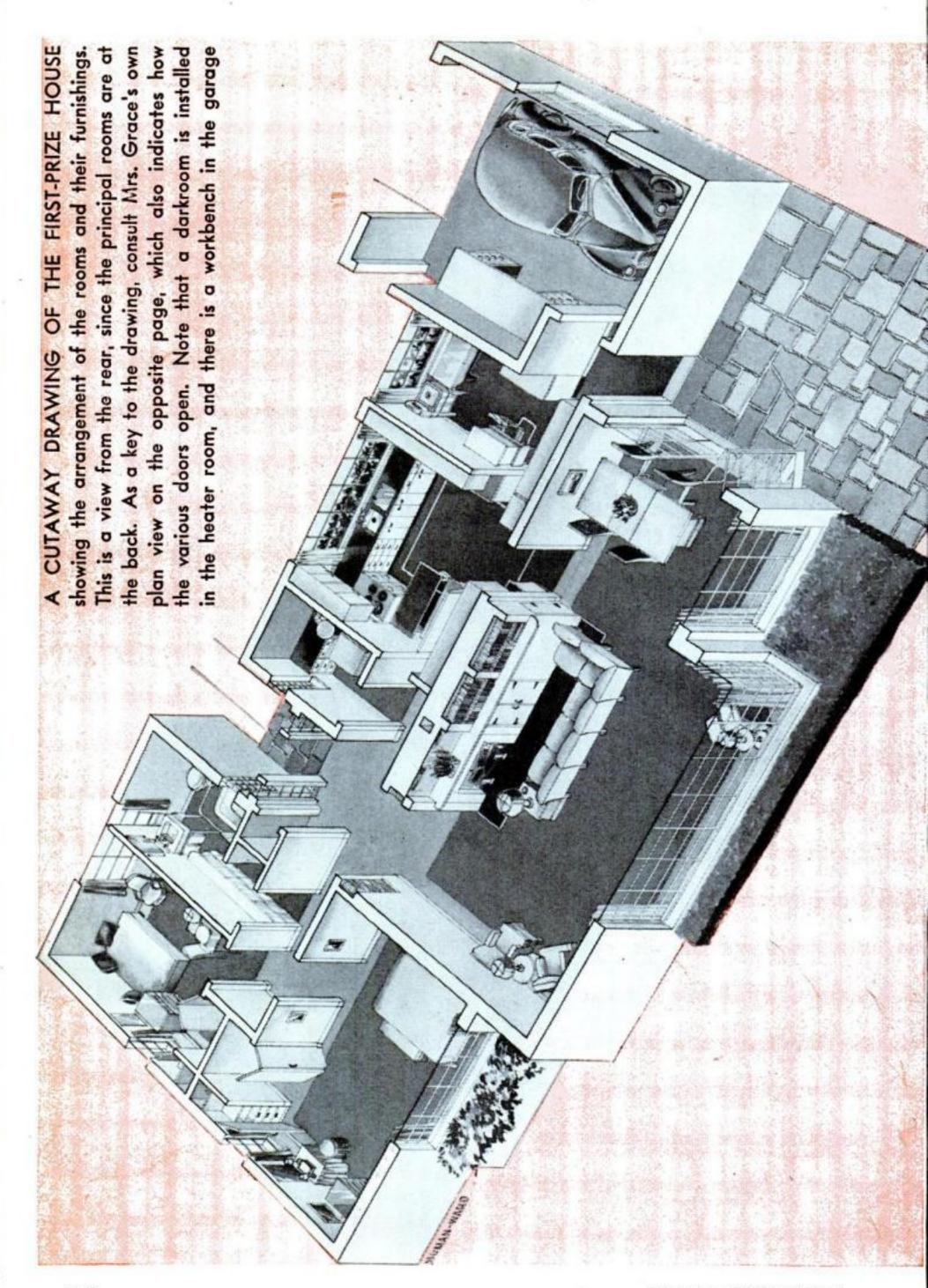
Exterior walls. Common brick veneer painted white; 2" by 4" studs; sheathing; 1" air space; rock wool, foil-backed insulation; gypsum-cork wall board as an inside painting surface. The use of this wall board eliminates the necessity of waiting for plaster to dry before decorating, adds fire resistance to walls, and won't crack or flake like plaster. The brick planting boxes are built in with the walls. Glass-brick panels in heater and bath as shown on plan.

Foundation and floors. A concrete slab laid on cinders forms the foundation for cork-tile flooring of a rich brown coloring in the living areas and for linoleum in the work areas. The cork-tile flooring in living room, dining area, bedrooms, and hall is resilient, quiet, nonslip, clean, a low conductor, and slow burning as an added fire-resistant quality. Bright-colored linoleum in kitchen, laundry, and bath has similar qualities, but may be replaced for changing color schemes. The heater room and garage have plain concrete floors to lessen fire hazards; and the

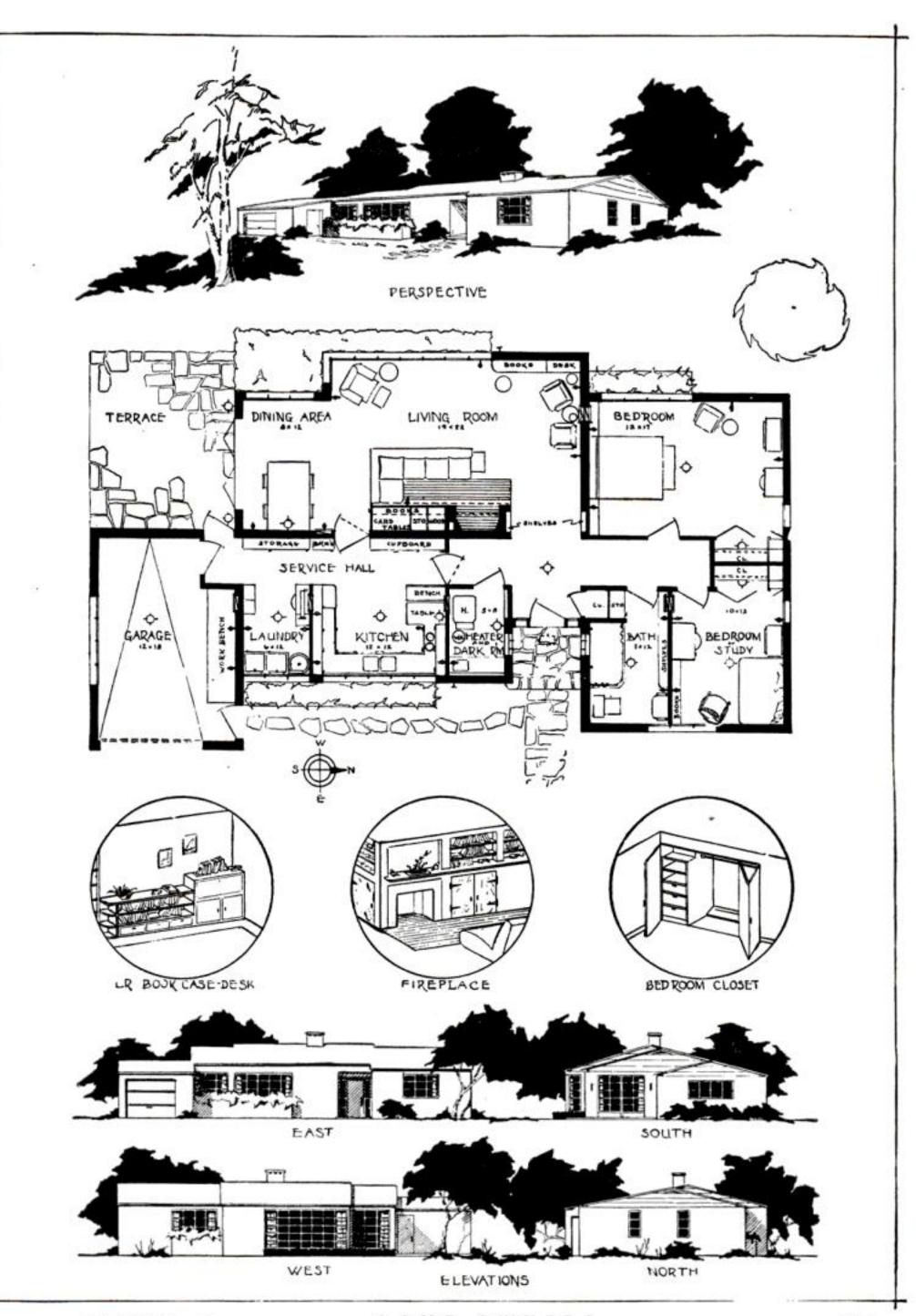
terrace and porch are flagstone.

Interior walls. Studs 2"
by 4" with very light pastelpainted wall-board surface.
Kitchen has linoleum on
work surfaces and above
sink to bottom of window.
Bath is papered with waterproof paper except for wall





150



board with horizontal metal molding strips above the tub.

Roof. Rafters are 2" by 8", 16" on centers. Heavy asphalt, square-tab roofing on asphalt paper; rock-wool insulation; ventilator openings at south and north of attic. The roof is blue in color to give the house add-

ed breadth and to make the brick seem whiter. Flashing and ducts, galvanized iron.

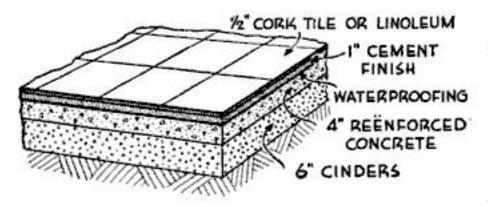
Woodwork. White-pine cabinets and shelves, exterior doors, and overhead garage door. Interior doors are flush birch veneered. Self-closing doors from service hall to the garage and to heater room are metal sheathed on the inside as fire protection.

Windows. Steel casements (opening out) equipped with inside copper screens and winter storm sash. Venetian blinds in rooms facing east and in large bedroom. Heavy pull drapes in living and dining room. Glass blocks, 8" by 8", in heater room and bath. All openings weather-stripped.

Hardware and plumbing. Hardware, satin chrome finish throughout. Pipes, cast iron and galvanized steel; hot-water lines, copper. Outside hose connections shown on plan.

We also have a mental picture of each room just as we'd like to have it—the color schemes, the furnishings, and the useful built-in features.

Living room. The walls will be painted a very light tint of dusty coral. The rug will be dark blue, and the other accents in shades of blue, ivory, and coral. The built-in shelves and cupboards around the fireplace provide space for wood storage and books. Card tables and games slide into the deep cupboard beneath the bookshelves, which opens toward the dining room. Heavy pull draperies draw across the large windows. The windows reach from the ceiling to 1' 3" above the floor. Ceiling height is 8'. Folding doors open from the dining room onto the outdoor terrace. The fireplace is white-painted brick



A reënforced concrete slab forms the foundation for the floors. In the living room, bedrooms, and hall, it is covered with cork-tile flooring; in the kitchen, laundry, and bath, with linoleum



like the exterior walls and has a 2' 6" high opening. The mantel, 2' above the fire-place opening, projects 3". The mirror recessed above the mantel reflects the view from the large windows.

Large bedroom. Walls tinted a light, rosy beige, with the furnishings and drapes in accents of blue-

green and eggshell. There are shelves and cabinets at each side of the bed handy for books, radio, and lamps. The closet opens by folding back the wood-panel doors and lights as the door is opened. Separate built-in drawers and shelves at the side of the clothes closet take care of other clothing.

Spare bedroom or study. Light creamtinted walls with green and rust and natural wood accents in the furnishings.

Bath. Light green and yellow colors in waterproof wall paper are repeated in curtains, floor, and shower curtains. The large storage closet at the right of the door, and the low linen storage shelves with sliding glass-front panels, provide plenty of storage space. Vertical tube lights at each side of the lavatory mirror give light for shaving.

Kitchen. Walls, cabinets, and woodwork white. Deep blue linoleum on work surfaces, breakfast table, floor, and wall back of sink. Wall cabinets at both sides and floor cupboards on three sides provide lots of storage space. Besides these, the glassfront cupboard at the right of the door into the dining room is built especially for pretty china. The cabinet at left of door holds brooms and mops. Indirect lighting over the sink and on the bottom of the wall cabinets shines down on the work surfaces. The sink will have a built-in garbage disposer. The service entrance from the back terrace is a "Dutch door," the top of which may be opened for cross ventilation.

Laundry. Floor and walls same as in kitchen. Equipment will consist of ironer, washing machine, washtubs with cabinets beneath, sewing machine, and cupboard.

Garage. The large workbench with storage space beneath is a handy, quiet, pleasant spot for working. It would be warm in winter, too, since the register is above it.

Heater room. The space not taken up by the forced-air circulation, gas-burning heater may be adapted to darkroom space by closing a shutter over the glass-block light panel. The heater may be used to circulate cool air in summer, and the automatic gas water heater provides hot water at all times. All register grilles are located in the walls at a height of about 7' so that they are above the occupancy zone, and the heat is deflected downward.

#### How to Prepare a Concrete Base for Laying Floor Tiles



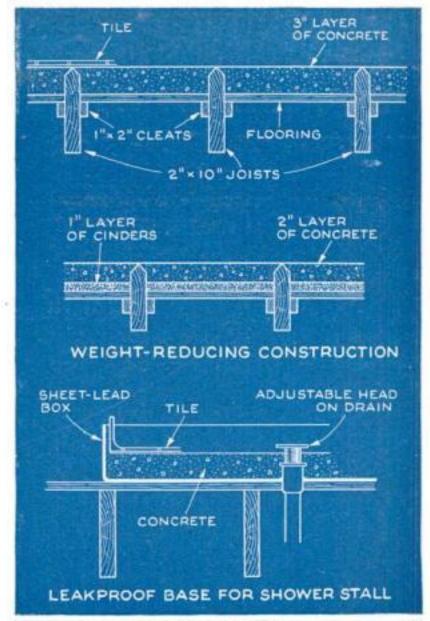
Installation of a shower stall, above, requires lead sheeting to prevent leaks. Right, pouring concrete

A SUCCESSFUL job of laying floor tiles depends to a large extent on the supporting quality of the base provided. A substantial concrete base can be installed on conventional wooden floor joists without raising the level of the floor. First remove the floor boards, then ridge the top edges of the joists, nail cleats on their sides 3¾" from the top, and reinstall the floor boards in a recessed manner as shown in the drawings. In this way a substantial support is provided for the concrete.

Two-by-ten joists, spaced on 16" centers and of approved load-bearing length, will support the weight of a 3" layer of concrete. Joists of smaller dimensions, however, may call for a reduction of weight, which can be accomplished by using a 2" layer of concrete over a 1" layer of cinders.

A reasonably dry concrete mixture consisting of 1 part Portland cement, 2 parts washed sand, and 3 parts clean pebbles should be used.

The floor area on which a built-in bathtub is to be laid (the right background in the photos) can be constructed in the usual manner, with the floor boards laid on top of the joists. However, to safeguard against water leakage from a tiled floor shower stall, incase the con-

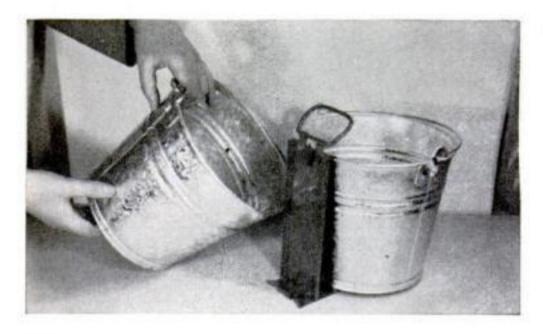




crete base in a box built of lead sheeting in which a hole has been prepared to receive the floor drain. All joints and seams must be tightly soldered.

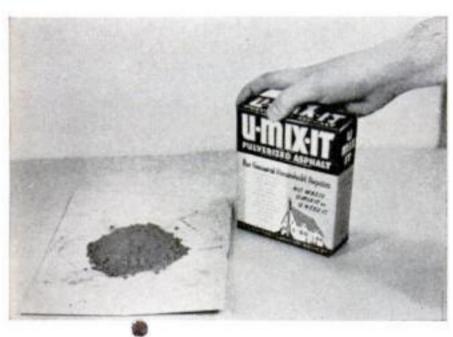
# IDEAS OZ HOME OWNERS

TWIN PAILS HELD TOGETHER for easy carrying (or carrying twice as much), and for convenience in working with two different liquids, are a farm and household aid now made possible by a special bracket. The device is handy where a cleaning solution and rinse water are both needed, or for carrying grain and water to poultry or cattle. Ordinary two-gallon pails come with the holder.





Either pail slips out of the holder for refilling without disturbing its twin, yet the attachment clamps them firmly



powdered asphalt mixes with kerosene, gasoline, turpentine, or other solvent to form a paint for brushing and spraying, or it can be worked into a pliable, puttylike substance. As a paint it will preserve fence posts, damp-proof walls and chests, and waterproof tanks, silos, dams, and fish, lily and swimming pools. The plastic is useful for repairing leaky roofs, cellars, chimneys, door and window frames, laying walks, providing a mastic for tile and brick, and other jobs where it can be applied with a putty knife or trowel. Its melting point is over 200 deg. F.



PAINT AND VARNISH PROTECTION from alcohol stains, hard scrubbing, and scuffing from shoes can be obtained with a synthetic, water-clear finish that can be brushed on over the painted surface. It will not discolor light tints or natural woods, can be applied over both flat and glossy surfaces such as enamel, and may be used either for interior or exterior work. The finish will dry hard overnight. It will be found of special value on window sills and floors that get a great deal of wear.



HOUSE NUMBERS VISIBLE AT NIGHT are made of clear methyl methacrylate, a plastic that reflects light without glare. The numerals are constructed with a series of tiny saucers which catch and reflect street lights. They are backed with thin metal and outlined by a plain, transparent rim of plastic. saucers give the reflected light just enough spread to provide a wide angle of vision. The numbers are, of course, legible by day also. Letters for name signs likewise are to be offered.

DAMP HOME BASEMENTS CAN BE DRIED by means of the same moisture-absorbing calcium chloride used in industrial plants. The home container (below) has a suspended triple V-shaped basket that holds ten pounds of drier flakes and a basin to catch the condensed moisture. One unit will dry up to 1,000 cubic feet of space. If two are employed, they are placed at opposite sides of the room. The chemical is replaced as necessary.

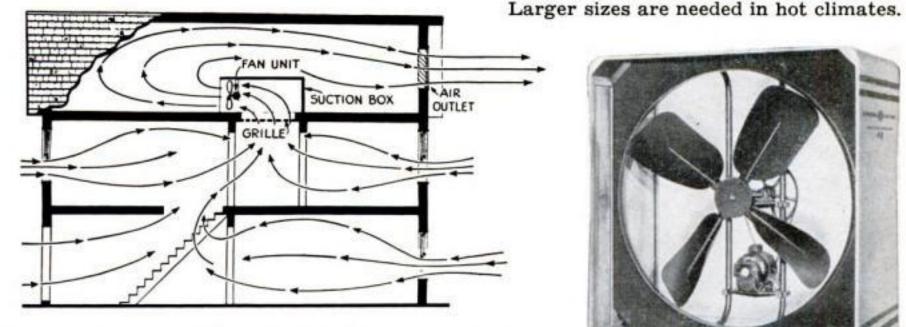




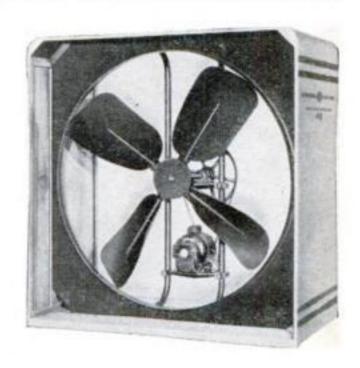
FLOODLIGHTED GARDENS, **ENTRANCE GATES**, house doors, or outdoor fireplaces are often desirable. handy flood-lamp holder now on the market (above) has a flexible arm mounted on a 12" spike which can be pushed into the ground by hand. It is completely weatherproof and has a six-foot rubber cord for connecting to the house current. The holder is designed to take a reflector bulb of either 75 or 150 watts. It is readily adjusted by hand, remaining in any desired position.

COOLING UNITS ADAPTED FOR HOME USE and the needs of different types of houses have been developed after several years of research and are now available in three sizes. Installed according to rules worked out in the laboratory, a fan and grille in the attic draw cool air through the doors and windows of the lower floors and expel heated,

stagnant air above, providing a complete change as often as once a minute. The fan unit is enclosed in a square wooden housing, which is mounted on rubber blocks and designed to prevent transmission of noise. The frame can be made to fit any suitable attic opening. The size of the cooling unit needed is determined by adding up the cubic content of all living space in the house.



Diagrammatic section of house showing air movement with typical home-cooling installation. At right is the fan in its casing



# MIRROR

In kitchens that have but one window in the wall behind the sink and dish cabinets, mirrors fastened to the ends of the latter improve general illumination by reflecting light from the fixture and from outdoors, brighten the counter under the cabinets, and add a sparkling decorative touch

# WIRE IN HEM

Stiff or newly washed curtains sometimes hang awkwardly. If heavy wire is inserted in the lower hem, it may be bent to form even folds, and its weight helps draw the curtain straight

# KEEPING



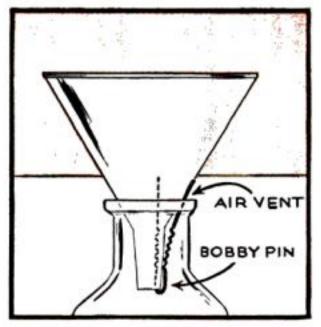
Short-stemmed flowers can readily be arranged with others in a bowl or vase by slipping the stems into transparent green cellulose drinking straws, which are unnoticeable in the bouquet



The deposit that forms on an iron used at too high a temperature on rayon is easily removed without scratching the surface by rubbing it gently with fine steel wool, soap, and water



Celery can be cleaned quickly by scraping it with a piece of a broken hack-saw blade. Wrap several layers of adhesive tape around one end of the blade so that it may be gripped safely

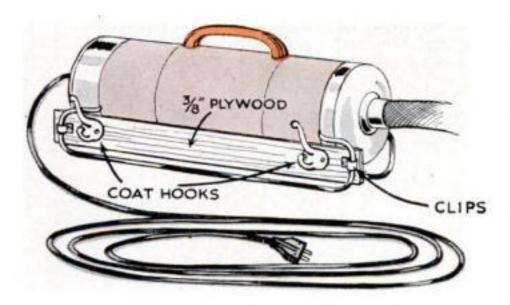


When a funnel fits the neck of a bottle snugly, trapped air often results in a sluggish flow of the liquid. In order to leave an air vent, slip a new, clean bobby pin on the edge of the spout as shown

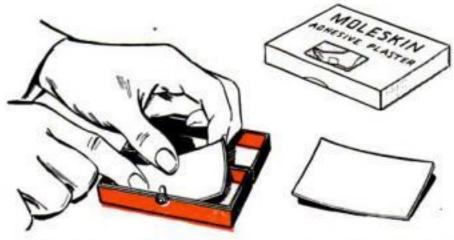
HOME OWNERS

POPULAR SCIENCE

# THE HOME SHIPSHAPE



Tank-type vacuum cleaners are more easily carried if the electric cord is looped out of the way on the holder shown above. Fasten the plywood to one runner with clips bent from thin strap iron



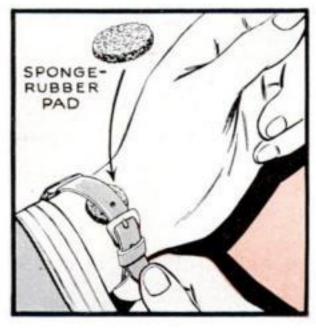
Moleskin adhesive plaster such as is sold for protecting the feet is excellent for lining boxes or fitted cases in which camera filters, lenses, jewelry, or delicate instruments are kept. Cut to shape, peel off covering, and press plaster into place. It is also suitable for lining lens caps



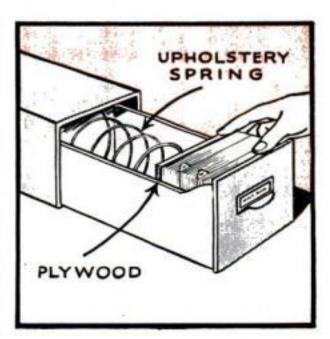
For household painting, a big paper picnic plate makes a convenient "catchall." If the paint can is glued to it, accidental tipping and spilling are almost impossible. Such a plate will also catch brush drippings and runs from the edge of the can, besides providing a place to lay the brush



A corrugated stair tread hung on the edge of the laundry tub replaces a cumbersome washboard for occasional rubbing, takes no extra space, and is conveniently at hand when needed



If you dislike tightening your wrist-watch strap excessively, but wish to keep the timepiece from slipping around, cement a sponge-rubber disk to the underside of the strap near the buckle



A soft upholstery spring placed behind the cards or folders in a partially filled filing cabinet will hold them upright and in proper order. The spring should bear against a plywood backing

OCTOBER, 1941

HOME OWNERS

#### By EDWIN M. LOVE

WHEN a man has set up his power jointer, he all but retires his hand planes. The machine will do much more quickly, and often more accurately, most of the woodworking jobs formerly done with such hand tools. The principal parts of a typical jointer are shown in Fig. 1.

For greatest convenience, the jointer should be mounted on its own stand, or on a combination stand beside the circular saw. If it must be mounted with other machines on a bench, the arrangement should be such that no other equipment obstructs the planing of long boards.

#### What are the first steps in setting up a jointer?

Unpack it carefully, and read the printed directions supplied with it. In bolting it to the stand, see that the motor and jointer pulleys are in alignment, and that the motor spins the cutter head in the direction toward which the knives are inclined. The speed of rotation should be from 4,200 to 8,000 revolutions per minute, the lower speed being preferable if the machine has sleeve bear-

ings. To calculate the size of the motor pulley required, multiply the desired jointer speed by the diameter of the jointer pulley, and divide by the motor speed. Thus, to drive a jointer having a 2¾" pulley at 4,200 r.p.m., the pulley on a motor turning at 1,750 r.p.m. theoretically should be 6.6" in diameter, but an ordinary 6½" or 7" stock pulley will, of course, be satisfactory.

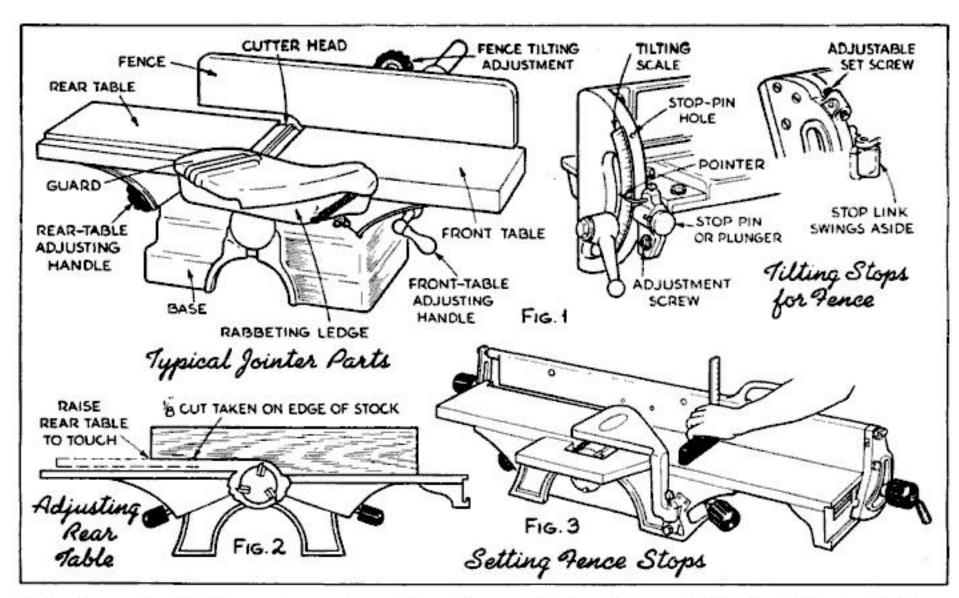
#### Are any adjustments necessary?

A new jointer is adjusted at the factory. However, three things should be checked—the alignment of the rear or out-feed table with the cutters, the adjustment of the fence stops for square and miter positions, and the setting of the depth-of-cut pointer.

#### How is the rear table adjusted?

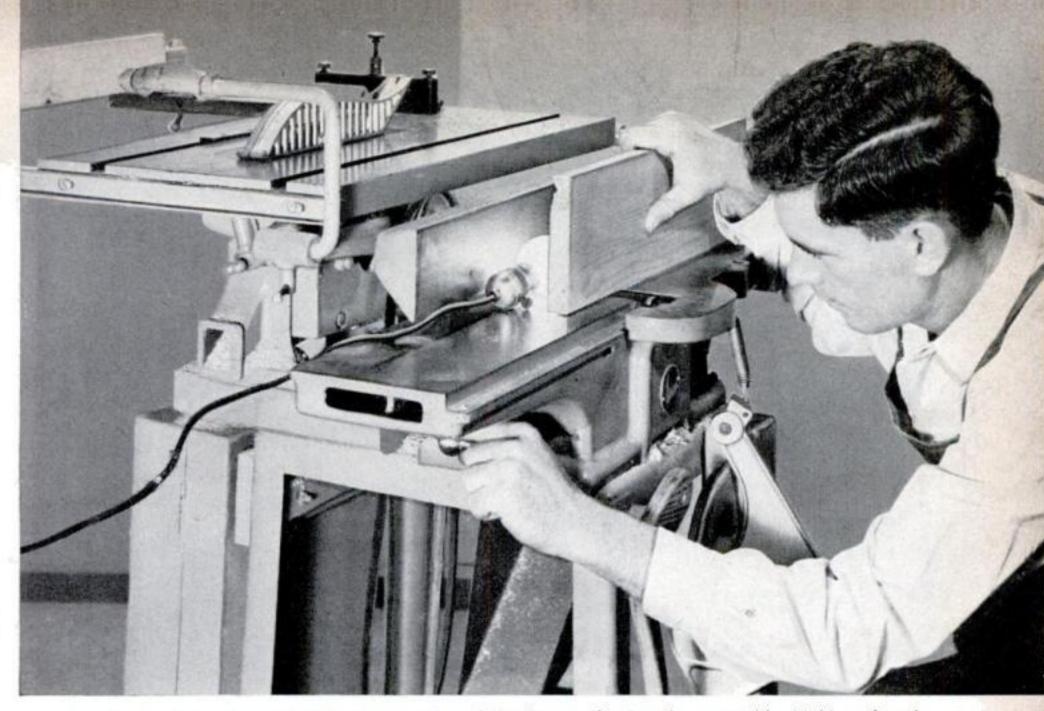
Set the front table for a cut of about \%". Unlock the rear table and drop it below the cutters. Plane a few inches along one edge of a board and rest the untouched part of the board squarely on the front table. Then raise the back table until it just touches the cut portion of the board (Fig. 2). If an electric lamp is held behind the board, it is easy to see when contact has been made.

#### MODERN JOINTERS TAKE THE



Parts of a modern jointer are shown above. For ordinary surfacing, the rear table should be level with edges of the blades in the cutter head. The setting of the front table determines the depth of the cut

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An electric bulb placed behind the test board facilitates aligning the rear table. Hold unplaned part of the board firmly down on the front table, then adjust the rear one so that it just touches the cut

#### DRUDGERY OUT OF PLANING

In what manner is the fence checked?

Test it for squareness with a try-square (Fig. 3), or by making trial cuts on a thick board, and adjust the stops. Check the miter stops with a bevel square set for 45 deg. and 135 deg.

What is necessary to set the depth pointer?

Lower the front table and take a cut of exactly \%", then loosen the screw holding the pointer, shift the latter to the correct position, and retighten the screw.

#### How is a board jointed?

To joint a board, which means to straighten and square one edge of it, set the jointer for a cut of \%", with the fence at 90 deg. Holding the stock firmly against the fence and the table, push it over the cutter head. If the board is wide enough, hook some of the fingers over the fence. If the work is narrow, bend the lower fingers to keep them well above the cutters.

Start the cut with the edge bearing on the front table, and as soon as a few inches have been planed transfer the pressure to the rear table. If the front end of the board strikes the edge of the rear table, or the depth of cut lessens when the work is held down on the latter (as indicated by a change in the tone of the machine), the rear table is too high. If the cutter gouges the end of the piece, the rear table is too low.

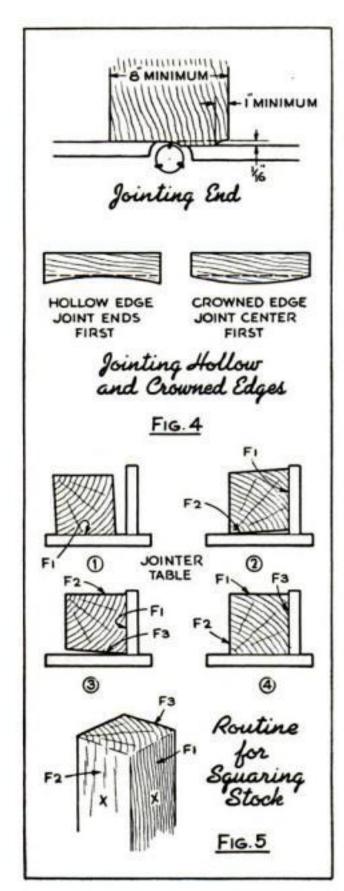
It is safe to bear down on stock directly above the cutter head, but if the operator prefers, he can advance the work into the cutters, placing the left hand over the rear table when a sufficient length of the piece rests on it. However, pieces shorter than 10", and thin stock, should not be jointed without special holding devices.

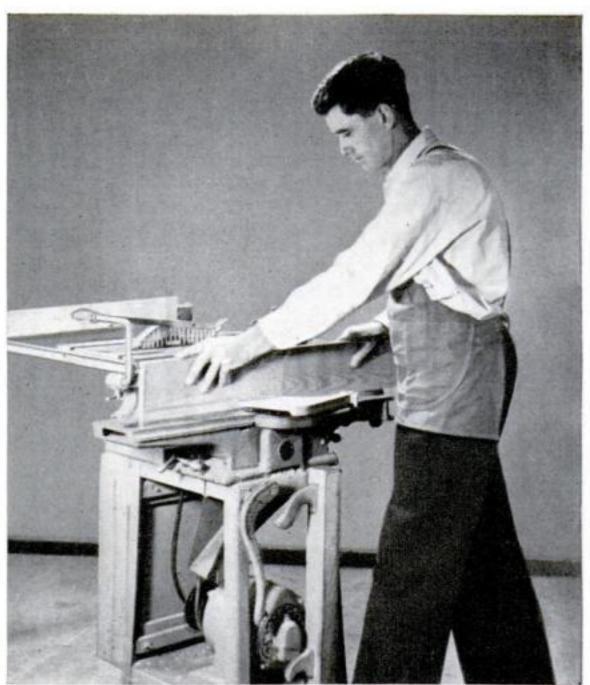
Although a sharp jointer will cut quite smoothly against the grain if the stock is fed slowly, it is best to cut with the grain whenever possible.

To joint a board with a hollow edge, run the ends over the cutters first; if the edge is crowned, joint it flat at the center to obtain a good bearing surface (Fig. 4).

#### Can the ends of boards be jointed?

Yes, provided the stock is at least 8"





The operator should stand in front and slightly to one side of the jointer, holding the work firmly against the fence and the table with both hands. Use the safety guard whenever possible

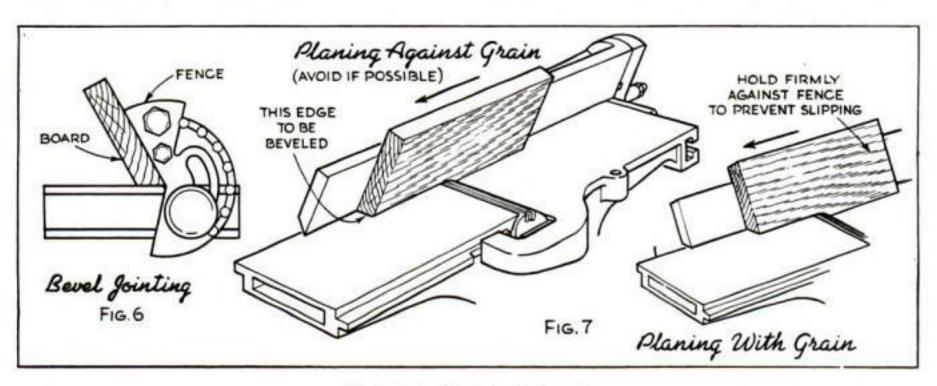
At left, squaring up stock. Below, for planing smooth bevels, tilt fence as needed for cutting with the grain

#### How is stock squared?

Thick stock, such as for table legs, is squared by the following procedure:

Select the best face, joint it with the grain, and mark it (Fig. 5). Pass an adjacent side over the jointer with the first side pressed flat against the fence. Turn the piece end for end, and joint a third side. Lastly, plane the fourth side with the second or the third against the fence. This squares the stock,

wide. Take a cut of 1/16" or less, and stop before reaching the rear edge, to avoid splintering. Finish by hand. An alternative method is to joint 1" at one edge, then turn the work and finish the cut from the other edge. For long boards it is best to fasten on an auxiliary vertical fence.





For surfacing short pieces or thin stock, use a push block such as is shown at the left. This not only protects the hands from possible injury, but will keep light work flat and rigid on the table. For a good grip on the stock, fasten a cleat across the back end of the block, or else glue coarse sandpaper firmly to its undersurface

but the width and thickness will not be uniform unless they were so to begin with. However, they can be made so by taking more than one cut where necessary, by varying the depth of cut, or by both.

#### What adjustments are necessary for beveling?

Simply tilt the fence "in," as in Fig. 6, or "out" to the desired angle. If a smooth cut is desired, study the grain structure and joint the piece with the grain (see Fig. 7), tilting the fence as may be necessary to plane the required bevel.



In rabbeting, the fence is set for the desired width, and the work is fed against the cutter head by sliding it along on the rabbeting ledge. End rabbets also can be formed by using a backing block

#### Can thin strips be planed on a jointer?

Yes, it is easy enough if a push block is used. Notch the bottom of a piece of ¾" or thicker stock and provide it with a handle (see data card, P.S.M., June '40, p. 147). The block will hold thin stock flat, and also serve the purpose of helping push the work over the cutter head.

#### How is rabbeting done on a jointer?

Remove the guard, set the fence at a distance from the ends of the knives equal to the width of the desired rabbet, and lower the front table to the required depth. Slide the work along on the rabbeting ledge, as shown in one of the photographs.

Next month: advanced work on the jointer.

# Sewing Cabinet in Swedish

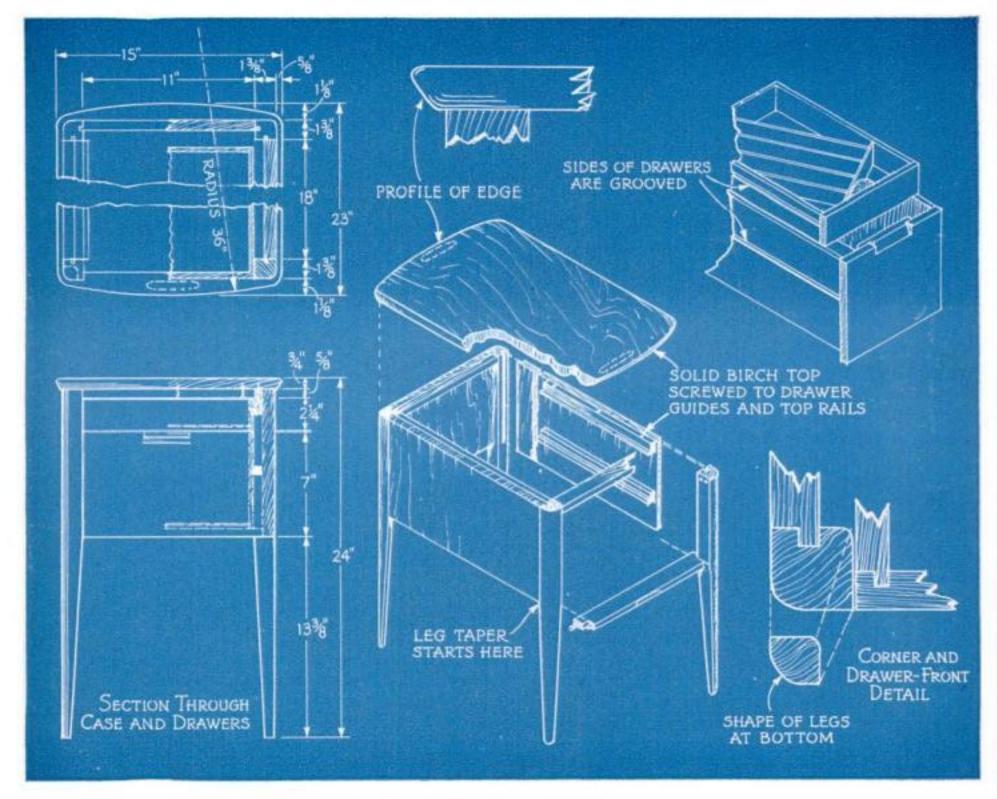
#### By JOSEPH ARONSON

Author of The Encyclopedia of Furniture

of gift furniture for Christmas, it is not too early to select a good project. For this purpose, there is nothing better than a sewing cabinet or table. Besides, every home workshop must produce a sewing table sooner or later . . . if only to appease the distaff side of the household for those long evenings spent at the workbench!

This design is in the form of a straightforward end table, but with drawers specially planned to hold sewing supplies and work. The piece is light enough to be moved about, and it has a fixed top, rather than one which opens, so that there will be a place for the sewing lamp. Although the frankly functional modern style is used, it is tempered with the delicacy and refinement of the Swedish school. Birch plywood is used for making the case, its grain running vertically to match that of the legs. The top is of solid birch, screwed fast to the top drawer guides. At each of the rounded ends is a finger-grip recess by which the table may be lifted about. The outer corners of the legs are well rounded, and the inner faces below the bottom drawer rail are tapered outward. The plywood sides, which are 13/16" thick, are dadoed into the legs.

Note that the drawers run on side guides fitted into the sides of the case, and the drawer sides are grooved to suit. The upper drawer is subdivided to accommodate spools, pins and needles, scissors, and the like. The lower drawer is made deep enough to hold an accumulation of work or folded material. No handles are used. A notch in the front of the lower drawer, and another in the front bottom rail, afford a finger grip on the bottom of either drawer. The drawer bottoms may be recessed slightly just



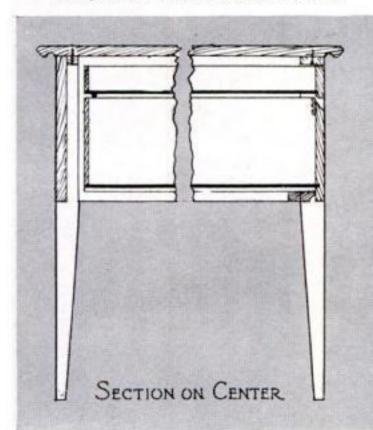
# Modern Style

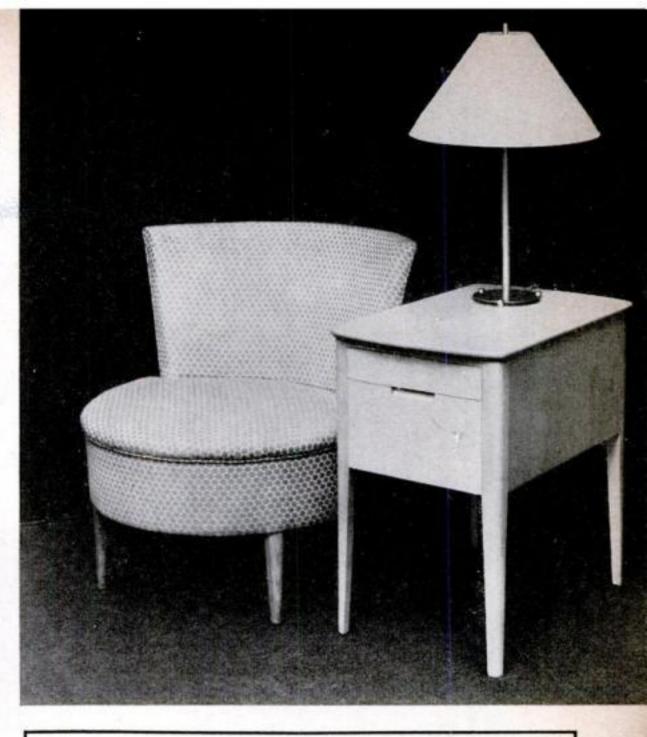
above these two finger notches.

If nicely grained wood is used, the ideal finish is one that does not darken the tone, but may be polished to a satiny luster. Two coats of high-grade floor varnish, the first well thinned, may be used for a modern natural-color finish. Let dry several days before rubbing down thoroughly with 8/0 waterproof paper and water. Polish with hard wax.

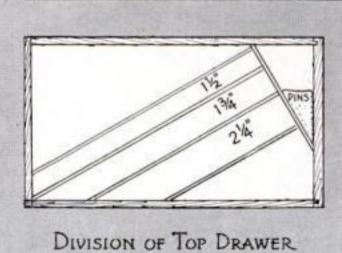


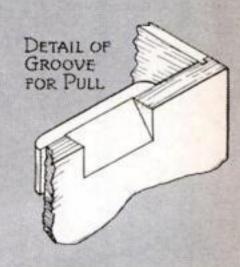
Divisions in the upper drawer of the table permit quick selection of spools, needles, and scissors. Deep lower drawer holds material



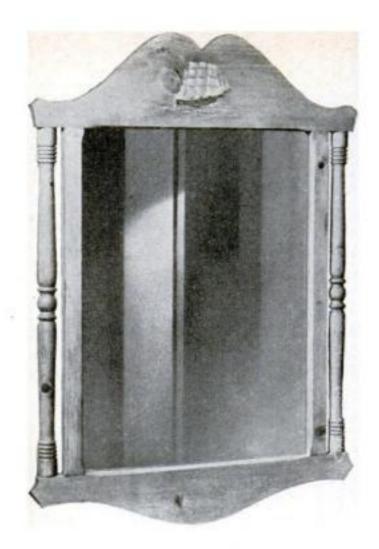


No. Pc.	Description	ERIA T.	w.	L.
1	Top, solid	3/4	15	23
$\frac{1}{2}$	Sides, 5-ply	13/16	9 1/8	19
1	Back, 5-ply	13/16	9 7/8	12
2 2	Drawer guides	7/8	2	18
2	Drawer guides	7/8	7/8	18
1	Front top rail	5/8	13%	11
1	Rear top rail	5/8	5/8	11
1	Front bottom rail	5/8	21/2	121/8
4	Legs	1%	13%	231/4
2	Drawer bottoms, plywood	1/4	103%	18%
1	Top drawer front	5/8	21/4	11
2	" sides	1/2	21/4	18%
1	" back	1/2	134	101/2
2 1 3	" partitions	1/4	134	181/8
1	Lower drawer front	5/8	7	11
2	" " sides	1/2	61/4	18%
1	" back	1/2	534	101/2
1	Backing for pull	1/2	11/4	8





OCTOBER, 1941



Designed by Joseph Aronson, this decorative framed mirror is an appropriate accessory for any home furnished in Early American style

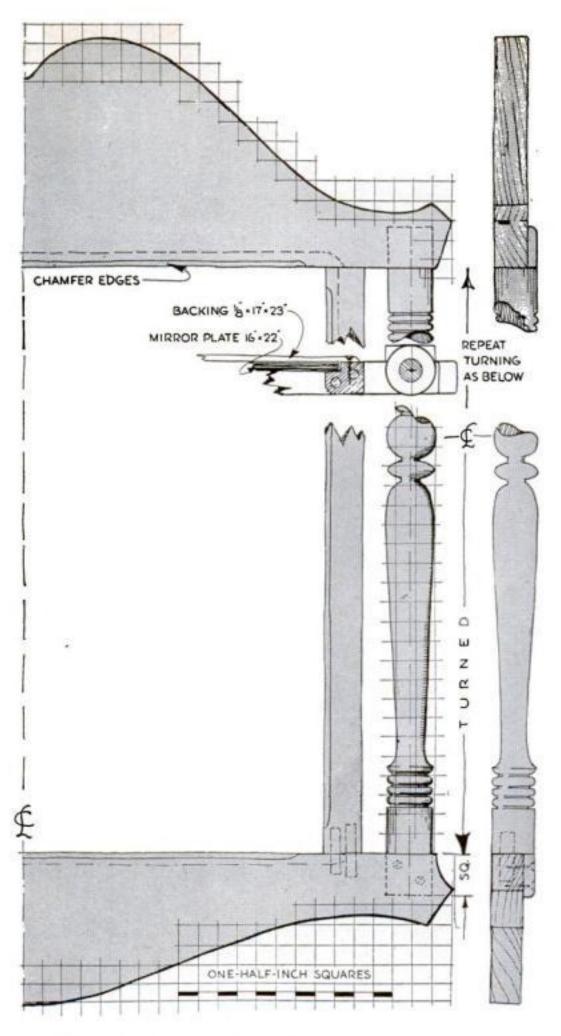
# Colonial Signboard Mirror

COLONIAL tavern sign was the inspiration for this mirror frame. It can easily be made from a few pieces of old pine or similar wood.

The mirror is actually framed in by the uprights and the top and bottom members, which are rabbeted for the glass. The free-standing turnings are decorative and

strengthen the frame. They are doweled in vertically. Since the turnings are heavier than the frame, the excess thickness is taken care of by leaving the ends unturned. The square blocks are then halved out and screwed to the back, as shown.

Sandpaper the frame smooth and soften all sharp edges. To finish, apply several coats of wax, colored with oil color to the desired shade. The large surface of the top member may be appropriately decorated, if desired, with a painted or carved design, such as the painted ship on the frame in the photograph.

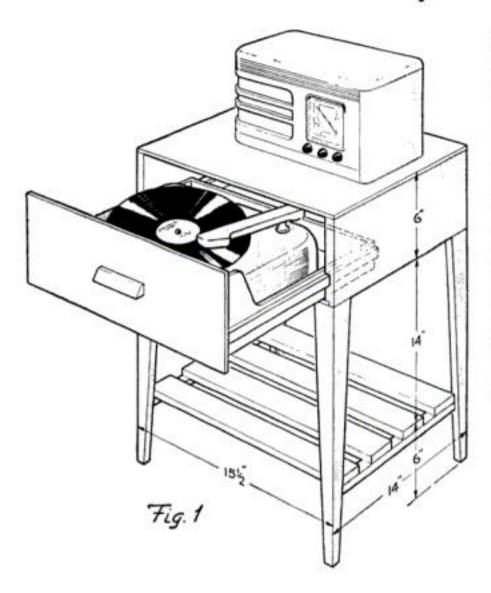


All four front edges of the frame are stop-chamfered. The mirror is held in rabbets as shown in the section above

#### LIST OF MATERIALS

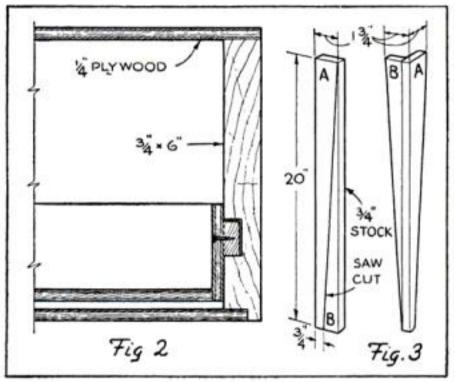
No. Pc.	Description	T.	w.	L.
1	Top	78	6	22
1	Bottom	7/8	4	22
2	Uprights	78	1	211/2
2	Turned uprights	11/4	11/4	23 3/4
1	Back	1/8	17	23
Note:	All dimensions are give finished sizes.	en in i	nches a	nd are

#### Drawer Holds Record Player and Muffles Scratch of Needle



INSTALLING a record player in a drawer in a small end table greatly improves its performance by muffling the needle-scratch and motor noise. The radio may be placed on the top of the table, and a shelf below will hold a record rack or record albums.

The table illustrated may be constructed with a dollar's worth of lumber. A piece of white pine ¾" by 5¾" by 4' is needed for the sides of the table and the front of the



A %" thick strip glued and screwed to the side of the drawer, and fitted to a groove in the table side, will make sliding easy and prevent tilting

drawer. A piece of ¼" plywood 2' by 4' completes the table and drawer, while the legs are sawed from a strip of white pine ¾" by 1¾" by 7'.

Dimensions depend to some extent on the size of the record player, so those suggested in Fig. 1 may be modified as necessary. The drawer will slide easily if constructed as shown in Fig. 2. A simple way to make each tapered leg is to cut a piece of ¾" by 1¾" stock into two pieces and fasten them together as in Fig. 3. Small corner braces are used to fasten the legs to the upper part.—LILLIAN PETERSON.

#### COMMON MORTISE-AND-TENON JOINTS [ WOODWORKING ]

 Only the tenon cheeks are cut.
 Suitable for members joining other parts some distance from end.

2. Edges also cut. The shoulders hide the ends of the mortise, and this usually results in a neater joint.

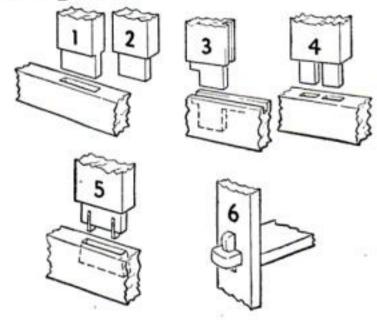
 For doors. Members are grooved to receive a panel, and tenon has a step to close end of groove in stile.

4. Double tenon, used on wide rails or where extra strength is needed.

5. Fox-wedged tenon. Hardwood wedges are inserted in saw kerfs. Ends of mortise slope outward toward bottom, and the wedges, forced in as the tenon enters, spread the tenon to fill the dovetailed mortise.

6. Keyed mortise and tenon. Used

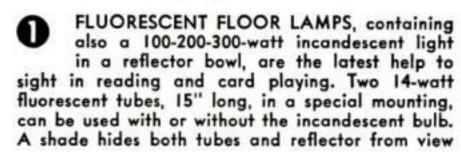
to lock shelves and stretchers in place. Wedge is driven into mortise in protruding tenon.

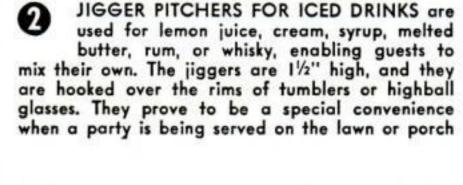


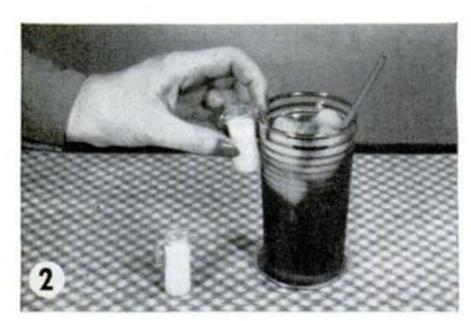
POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY SHOP DATA FILE

# New Appliances

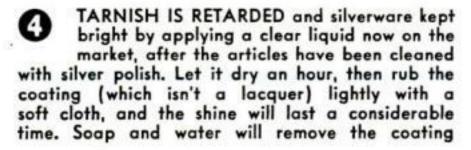


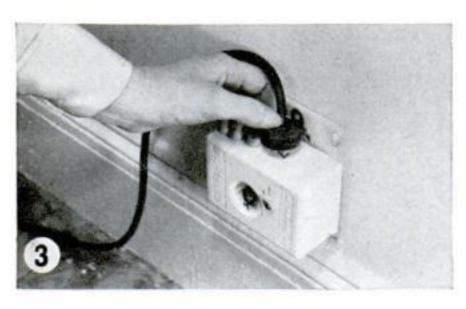






FOR AUTOMATIC DEFROSTING just plug in this white enamel box between the electric refrigerator's cord and the wall socket, set the indicator, and forget all about this kitchen chore that many are likely to forget anyway. The electric motor will shut off for an hour or so late every night and then automatically turn on again





SOUP HERBS GROW IN THE KITCHEN in a flowerpot which puts the city dweller on a footing with his cousin who has a patch of land. Just reach out and pluck chervil, parsley, sweet basil, winter savory, or thyme—it's fresh in your miniature and decorative garden. These are the five herbs now made available as potted plants



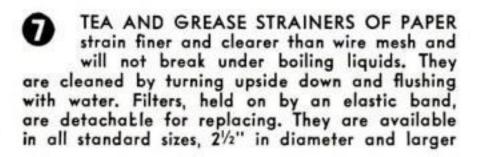


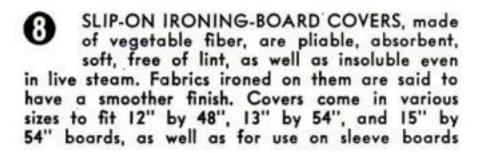
HOUSEHOLD

POPULAR SCIENCE

# for the Household

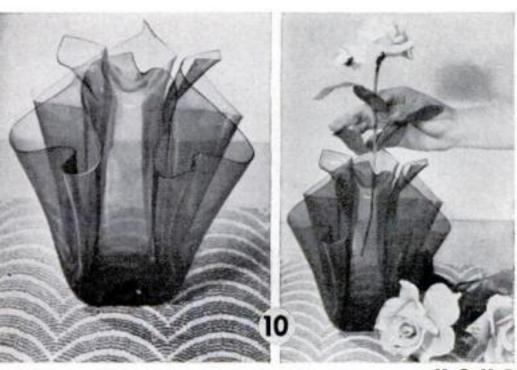
DAMPEN LAUNDRY FOR IRONING and still keep your fingers dry with this new type of sponge constructed of two kinds of rubber, The underpart is extremely porous and will absorb water instantly; the upper—that which is held in the hand—is hard and waterproof. The sponge is about 4" in length and comes finished in white





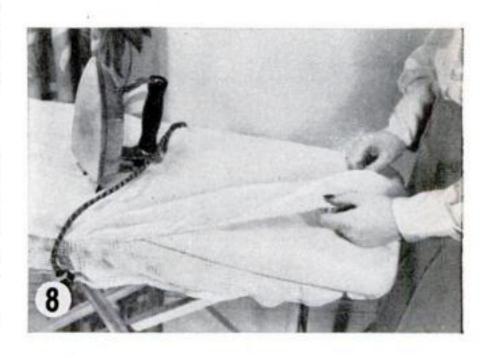
ORAPES FOR ODD-SHAPED WINDOWS or for round or square pillars can be hung on this pliable metal strip. The base, which contains holes for mounting, is at 90 deg. to the top, in which are eyelets for attaching drapery hooks. To install, bend to desired shape, cut to length with ordinary shears, and screw or tack the rod in place

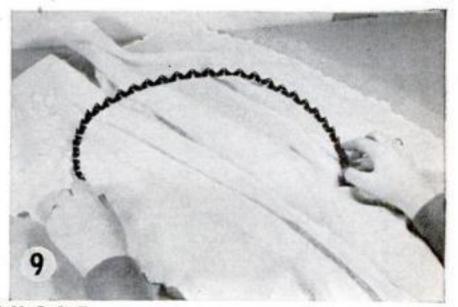
RIPPLED PLASTIC VASES constructed of a thin sheet of transparent material add a new note to table and flower arrangements. Breakage resistance is high, and the manufacturer has used ingenuity in the design and selection of colors to achieve beauty. Rippled plastic dishes for serving candy and nuts can also be obtained



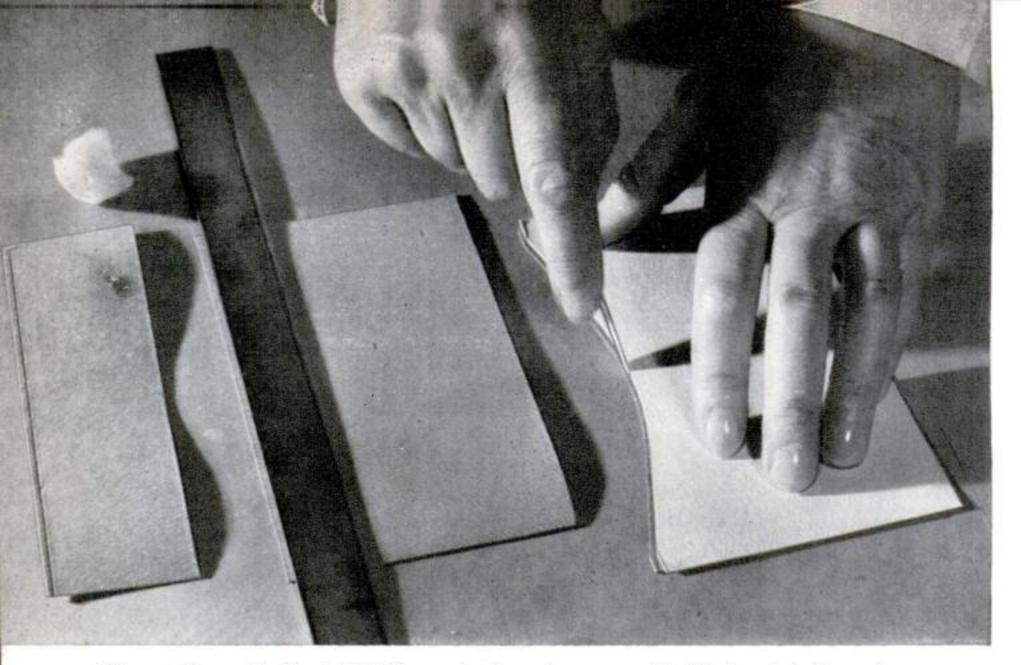








HOUSEHOLD



When marking or tooling straight lines on leather, always use a straightedge. In laying out curves, as is being done in this photograph, a tin or cardboard template is useful for guiding the marking tool

# Leather Craft

EATHER craft is a hobby that is at once entertaining, useful, and profitable. It requires few tools and is comparatively inexpensive, yet the completed projects, when well designed and carefully executed, are

valuable. They make excellent presents.

If you learn the basic processes used in decorative leather work, you will find it easy to apply them to a great variety of articles. In doing this, you will have an almost unlimited opportunity to exercise your creative ability, and that always doubles the pleasure derived from a hobby.

The accompanying "data cards" are the first four of a series prepared by Raymond Cherry, professor of industrial arts, State Teachers College, Wayne, Neb. The complete set will cover all the fundamental op-

erations in leather craftwork.

#### CRAFT LEATHERS

Leather in many colors may be purchased from leather companies by whole or half skins, or by the square foot or square inch. Dealers will also cut leather from your pattern, and some of them furnish project kits of their own design. If much leather is used, it is more economical to buy whole or half skins.

The best tooling leather is calfskin, but tooling steerhide also works well. Considering economy rather than durability, tooling sheepskin may be used. Calfskin makes excellent billfolds, ladies' purses, coin purses, cigarette and comb cases. Tooling steerhide makes durable billfolds, key and card cases, book ends, notebooks. Tooling sheepskin is used for book covers, book

#### [LEATHER CRAFT-1]

marks, card-table covers. Pigskin may be tooled in straight lines for letter cases, key cases, coin purses.

Embossed leathers have designs impressed upon them. Embossed steerhide and cowhide are used for brief cases, notebooks, camera cases. Sheepskin is sold with fancy embossed designs or imitation grains of expensive leathers, such as ostrich, and is used for coin purses, book covers, billfolds. Suèdes are used for linings, handbags, belts. Reptile leathers are used for billfolds, coin purses, handbags. Ostrich is used for billfolds, coin purses, book covers. Heavy steerhide, cowhide, and elkhide are used for belts, knife sheaths, moccasins. "Skiver" is thin leather used only for linings.

#### MAKING DESIGNS and PATTERNS [LEATHER CRAFT-2]

Before the leather is cut, it is necessary to prepare a full-sized pattern of heavy paper. If the finished article folds, the pattern also must be folded. On this pattern place the design for tooling, if any. The design may be original or copied from design books or other sources. Ideas may also be obtained by observing the finished leather articles shown in catalogues and shop windows.

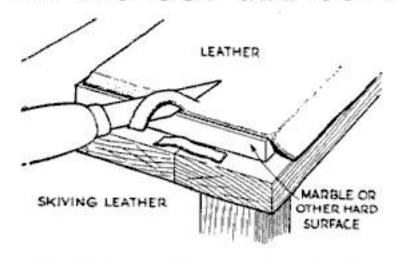
Blue-lined cross-section paper with 1/4" squares will aid in developing original designs. One's first attempt at tooling should be done with a simple design largely of straight lines.

Do not try to decorate the entire article. Remember that you must make allowance on the pattern for laced edges, folds, and fasteners. Check the pattern and design to see that they are correct before you cut out the leather and transfer the design.

Permanent templates or patterns may be made from tin if a number of identical articles are to be made. They are a great help in laying out and cutting leather. Label them plainly to avoid possible errors in identifying and using them, and preserve them for reference in case duplicate projects have to be made.

POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY SHOP DATA FILE

#### LAYING OUT and CUTTING [LEATHER CRAFT-3]



The best quality of leather for tooling comes from the backs of animals. Use a steel square and chalk to lay out lines on the grain or finished side of dark-colored leather, and a pencil

on leather which is light in color. Place the leather on a cutting board. Hold the steel square or tin template on the layout lines. Use a sharp knife to cut all straight edges. Hold the blade at a 45-deg. angle and cut through the leather on the first stroke. Curves may be cut with tin snips. Do

not cut past corners.

When two or more pieces of leather are to be joined, the edges must be thinned so that the assembled edges are no thicker than the original leather. This is called "skiving." A thin slice is cut from the unfinished side as shown.

POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY SHOP DATA FILE

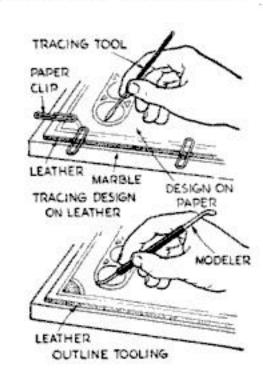
#### **OUTLINE TOOLING**

#### [LEATHER CRAFT-4]

To make tooling leather pliable, moisten the entire unfinished side until the finished side darkens. Then fasten the pattern with the design to the finished side by using paper clips. Place the leather on some smooth, hard surface, such as marble.

Trace the design with a leather-tracing tool held as a pencil. Use a straightedge to mark straight lines. Raise one end of the pattern to see that the design is clearly outlined on the leather. Remove the pattern.

Go over the design several times with a leather modeler until all lines are uniformly depressed. Always use the straightedge to tool straight lines. Work from the outer edges toward the center on all lines to avoid stretching the leather. Leather is too wet for tooling if water oozes up back of the modeler. After tooling has been completed, place the leather in the position desired until it dries.



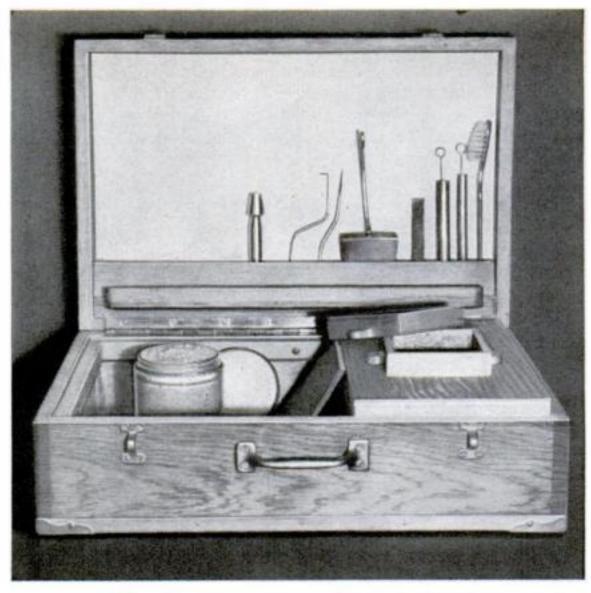
# Art-Metal Foundry

COMPACT UNIT ENABLES ANYONE TO CAST SMALL GIFTS, NOVELTIES, AND MODEL PARTS

By H. John Blann and Tom E. Moore

ASTING small objects in soft metals becomes a simple task in the home workshop for anyone who will take the time to construct this compact little artmetal foundry. It makes possible the casting of a variety of ornaments, buttons, costume

jewelry, toys, and small parts for models. A unique feature of the outfit is the fact that the casting is done in FFF pumice stone and glycerin mixed in an 8:1 ratio by volume. This takes the place of the usual foundry sand. It is extremely accurate for fine-detail casting, and has two other definite advantages over the regular



The complete miniature foundry outfit, including the molding board and flask, packs neatly into a metal-lined carrying box

sand—first, it requires no parting sand, but breaks cleanly from the pattern and from itself; second, it requires no tempering with water as does sand, hence, no steam pits occur in the castings, and there is no time lost waiting until sand that is too wet has dried sufficiently for use.

The pumice and glycerin may be mixed

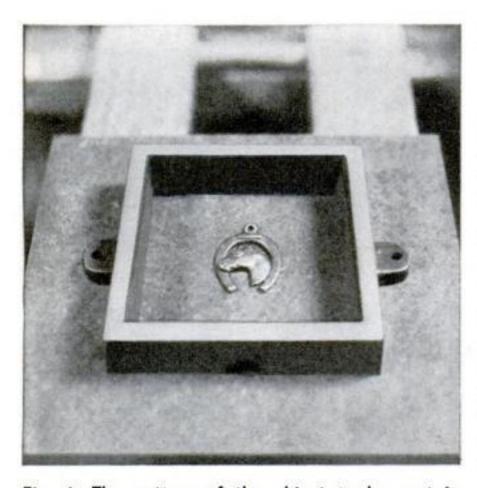


Fig. 1. The pattern of the object to be cast is placed face up on the molding board, and the drag is inverted over it. The process is a modified version of that employed in regular foundry work

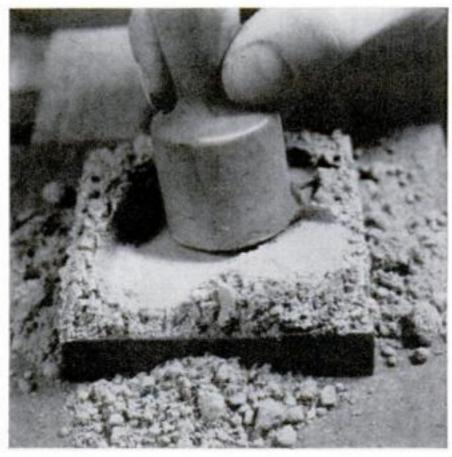


Fig. 2. Molding sand is packed into the inverted drag and rammed down. A unique "sand" mixture of pumice-stone powder and glycerin, well suited for fine-detail casting, is used in this process

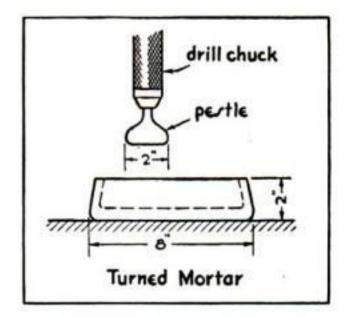
with a mortar and pestle either by hand or in a specially constructed set to be used in a drill press. Turned from hardwood, the mortar is approximately 8" in diameter and 11/2" deep; the pestle is made about 2" in diameter, with a neck small enough to be clamped lightly in a drill-press chuck. Still another way is to mix the pumice and glycerin first with enough water to make a thick paste, then evaporate the water by heating this paste in a shallow pan. If the water is not entirely

removed, however, steam pits will appear in all castings, and one of the advantages of the mixture will be lost.

The mixture is kept in an air-tight jar when not in use to prevent absorption of water from the air. The "sand" can be used over and over again, but in time the edges of the grains will become round, thereby losing "tooth." When this occurs, the pumice and glycerin mixture should be replaced.

The box in which the foundry and foundry tools are kept is made in the form of a carrying case. A block of wood is provided to hold the foundry tools, and there is a ledge to support a molding board.

This ledge is undercut with a narrow saw kerf on the underside to incase completely



The mortar and pestle used to mix pumice stone and glycerin are made of hardwood. They are turned in the lathe to the dimensions indicated

the metal lining for the bottom of the box. The lining is of bright tin plate or 22-gauge galvanized iron.

The miniature foundry tools are made from odds and ends. The pattern for the flask is constructed from small pieces of pine or mahogany and finished with two coats of orange shellac. The flask castings may be made at home or obtained from a local foundry at nominal cost. If the castings are to be obtained from a foundry, it will be well to have them made from

bronze or cast iron for maximum durability.

Slicks are forged from valve springs, following the pattern of regular foundry slicks. The ladle may be purchased at a hardware store. The sprue cutter is a piece of %" brass tubing. It is turned on a lathe on one end so that the interior is cut away to a sharp edge, as shown in the drawing.

The rammer is turned from hardwood, such as maple or birch, or it may be made from cold-rolled steel, brass, or aluminum. Galvanized iron is used for the shovel, which is cut to the pattern given in the drawings, then folded, soldered in the corners, and fitted with a bent wire handle. The handle is riveted on. The molding board is a scrap of five-ply fir, 6" by 10",

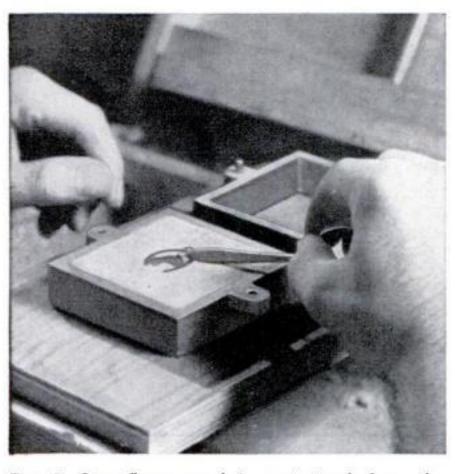


Fig. 3. Superfluous sand is next struck from the top of the packed drag, and the drag turned over on the molding board. A slick is used to remove excess sand above the parting line of the pattern



Fig. 4. The cope is placed on top of the drag. Sand is packed into it and rammed, and the excess struck off. Next, the two parts of the flask are separated so that a sprue can be cut for pouring

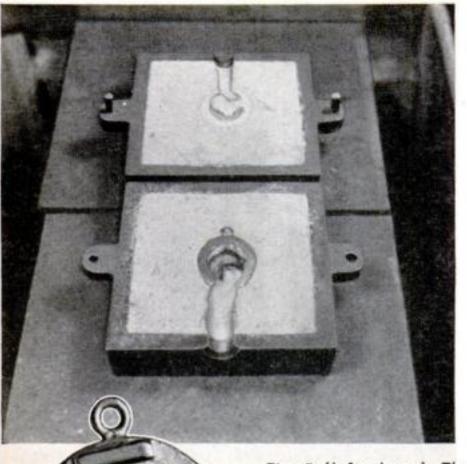




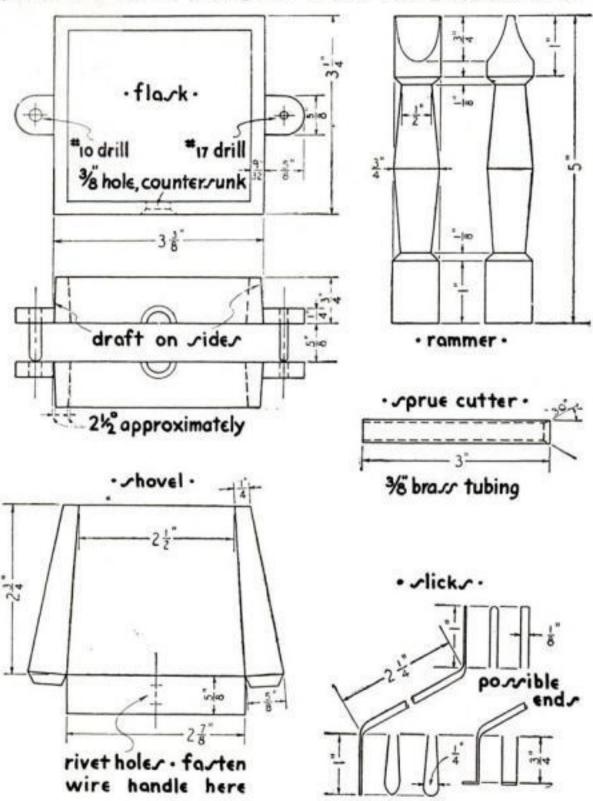
Fig. 5 (left above). The pouring sprue is cut in both parts of the mold. The pattern is then gently removed. Fig. 6 (right above). Reassembled, the flask is placed in a vise for pouring. The finished casting appears at left

or of pressed wood of the same size.

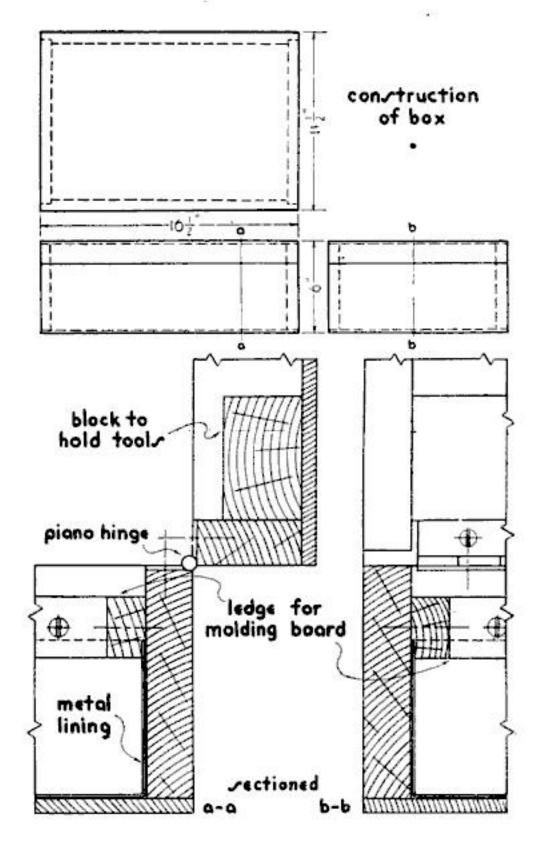
Metals for casting include lead, tin, pewter, type metal, and die-casting metal. If a cast-iron flask is used, brass, bronze, copper, and other metals which melt at higher temperatures may be used provided that facilities are available for melting them.

The process of art-metal casting is a miniature version of regular foundry work. The steps are shown in the accompanying illustrations. The model or pattern in this instance is a horse-head medallion.

In Fig. 1 the pattern has been placed face up on the molding board, and the drag inverted over it. The pumice is packed into the inverted drag, and is rammed tight as in Fig. 2. Superfluous "sand" is struck from the top of the drag, and the drag is turned over. A slick is then used to remove



Above, left, is design for flask, showing pouring hole in one edge. To its right is sketch for rammer; below, the shovel, sprue cutter, and slicks. The miniature foundry tools are made from odds and ends



Box for foundry and tools is lined with galvanized iron or tin, has block for tools, and ledge for molding board

excess "sand" above the parting line of the pattern (Fig. 3).

The cope is placed upon the drag, sand is packed and rammed into it, and the excess is struck off (Fig. 4). The parts of the flask are separated (Fig. 5), and the pouring sprue is cut with the sprue cutter. This sprue extends in both parts of the mold from the pouring hole in the flask to the pattern. Final trimming away of sand is done by use of a slick. The pattern is then gently lifted out and the flask reassembled. A simpler way to remove the pattern is to turn the drag upside down and let it drop out of its own weight.

The flask is sandwiched between two pieces of pressed wood. It is then held securely in a vise, with the pouring sprue up. Molten metal is poured in carefully until it runs over the edges (Fig. 6). This is an unconventional method, but gives satisfactory results.

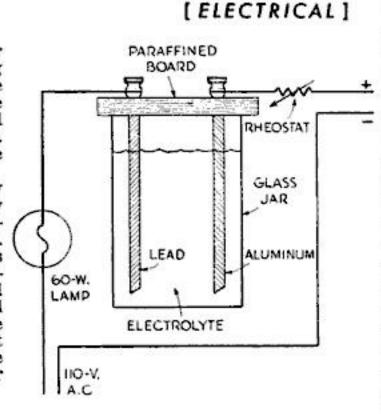
When the metal has cooled until it is no longer shiny and the top surface has become hard, the mold can be separated. After it has cooled sufficiently to be handled, the sprue metal can be broken away from the casting. The casting is then cleaned with an old toothbrush, smoothed with jeweler's files, and buffed or polished.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This special type of work was introduced to hobbyists by Mr. Blann when a senior at the State Normal School, Oswego, New York.

#### **ELECTROPLATING, PART 5**

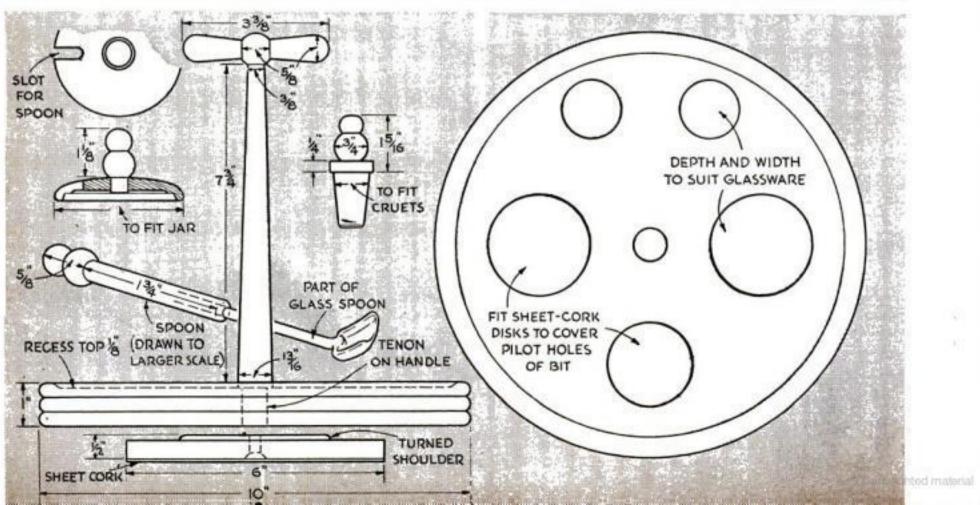
A simple half-wave electrolytic rectifier will supply direct current for electroplating of an experimental nature or when the size of the work is not large. It makes use of the principle that when two metals are immersed in a suitable electrolyte, they will set up a greater resistance to current flowing in one direction than in the other.

A glass container such as a fruit jar, may be used to hold the electrolyte. This may consist of a strong solution of dibasic ammonium phosphate or of ordinary borax. Cover the jar with a piece of wood which has been soaked in hot paraffin. To the underside of the wood, screw a strip of sheet lead and another of aluminum, so that they will be suspended in the electrolyte. The surface area of the strips will determine the amount of current that can be rectified. Connect the rectifier, in series with a 60-watt or larger lamp, to the 110-volt A. C. supply.



POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY SHOP DATA FILE





#### Quickly Made Gift Projects

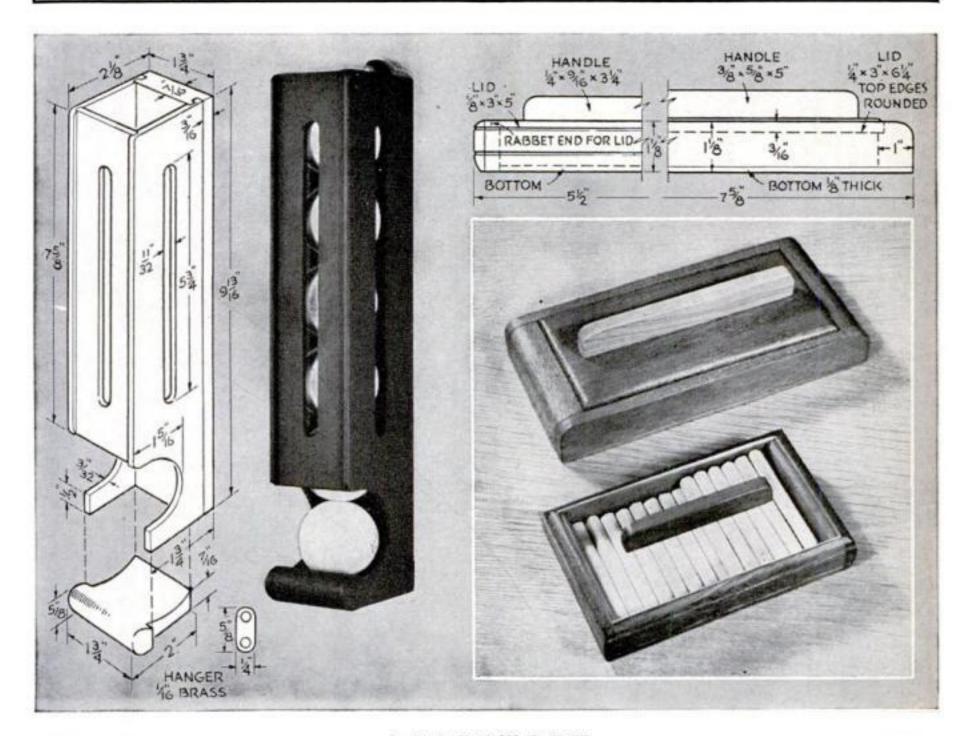
#### DESIGNED FOR POPULAR SCIENCE BY ERNEST R. DEWALT

ware is used, the stoppers and the jar cover being individually fitted. The set shown was made f oak, but any good turning stock will serve. Mount a 10" disk, 1\%" thick, on a faceplate for turning the tray. An expansive bit forms the various recesses, into which cork disks are glued. Turn the base and attach it with a single countersunk screw, left loose enough to permit the tray to revolve. Part of a small glass spoon such as is used in tall drinks is cemented into a turned handle to form the mustard ladle.

The wooden parts may be tinted with filler or stain, and finished with three coats of shellac or two sprayed coats of clear lacquer, rubbed, waxed, and polished. Approximate time, 5 hours.

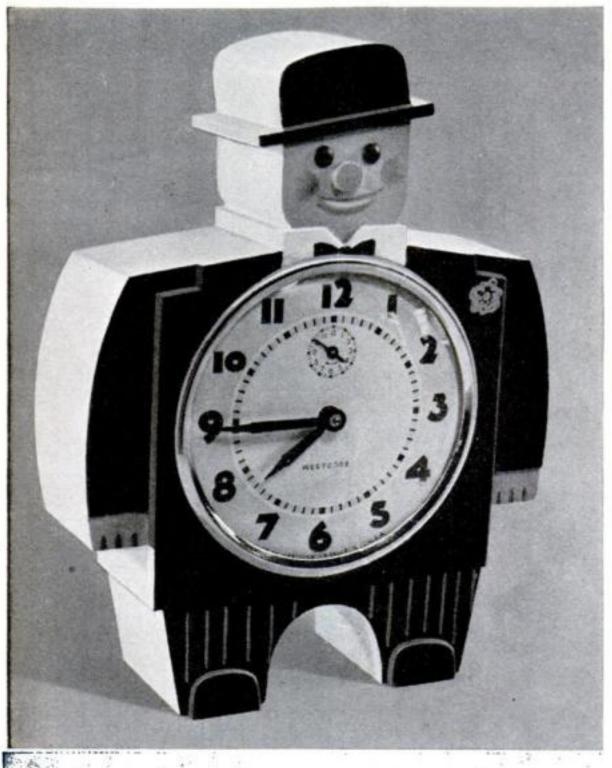
RACK FOR TABLE-TENNIS BALLS. Well-seasoned pine is suitable for this game-room accessory. All rabbeting and grooving are done on the circular saw. The bottom is band-sawed or shaped with a rasp. Glue and clamp together. Attach small metal hangers for mounting. A dull black finish contrasts well with the white balls, of which the rack holds six. Approximate time, 3½ hours.

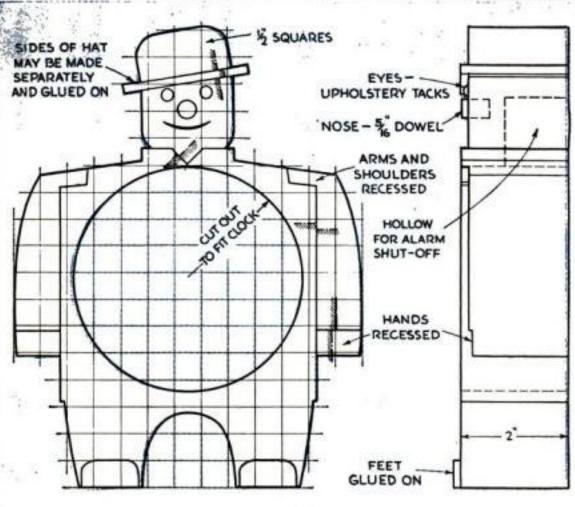
CIGARETTE OR JEWEL BOXES. If for cigarettes, these boxes should be made the right width to fit your favorite long or standard-size brand. Glue up the sides and bottoms, and sand or plane the boxes to shape after the glue has set. The lid rabbets are cut into the ends or formed by gluing small fitted blocks to the inside faces. Make the decorative grooves on the smaller box by running it over a circular saw set to cut 1/32'' deep. Lids may be of plastic, glass, or wood. Sand the boxes smooth, apply two coats of clear lacquer, rub down with fine abrasive paper, and finish with wax. Approximate time, 31/2 hours each.



# Rumpus-Room Clock

DESIGNED BY JUAN OLIVER





F THE game room must have a clock—and time is all too likely to pass unnoticed there if none is provided-let it by all means be an amusing one. The smiling gentleman illustrated will tactfully remind you and your guests when it's time to call it a day, and just as cheerfully welcome you back again for hours of fun. He can be kept on the home bar, on one of the shelves behind it, or wherever he will be in plain sight.

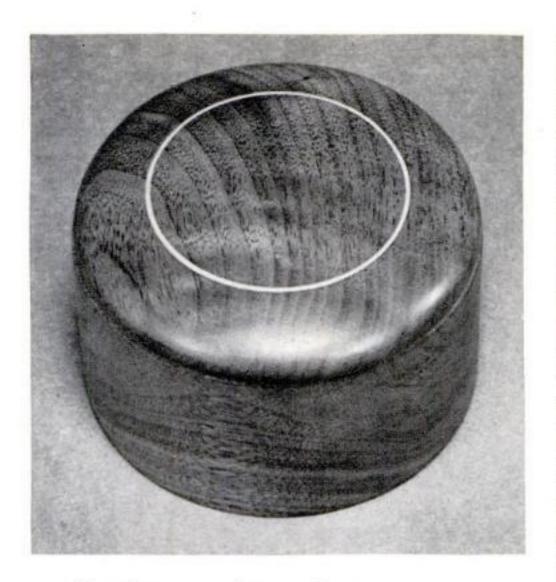
White pine will do nicely, and if no 2" thick stock is on hand thinner material can be glued up to that size. Lay out the figure on 1" squares, then saw out the opening for the clock. An electric one is ideal, of course. The base or legs will probably have to be removed. Hollow out the figure from the back, if necessary, for any projecting parts.

Band-saw or otherwise cut out the body, making certain that the feet are flat and square so that the figure will stand firmly. With a sharp chisel, cut back the face, the hat above the brim, and the arms and shoulders about 1/8". The hands are further recessed about 1/16". Insert the nose and eyes. Make a shallow cut for the mouth, and glue on the small blocks at the feet.

After sanding smooth all over, apply two thin coats of shellac, sanding lightly again after each. Paint as in the photograph, or with stripes or checks if an even more comical effect is wanted. The boutonnière, tie, and fingers are simply painted on. Approximate working time, 3 hours.

CRAFTWORK

POPULAR SCIENCE



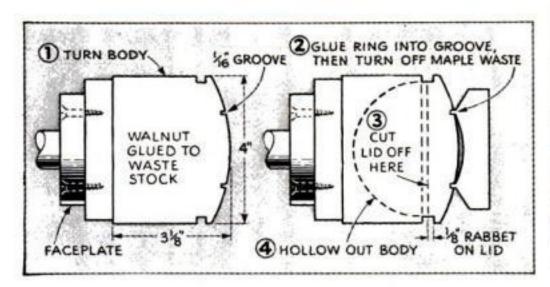
# Inlaid Ring of Maple Ornaments Turned Walnut Powder Bowl

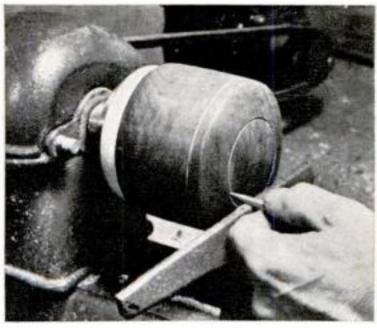
ATHE-TURNED inlay decorates this powder or trinket bowl. Select a block of walnut of sufficient thickness to permit turning both the lid and the bowl. Glue it to waste stock with paper between, and mount on the lathe faceplate. Shape the front and smooth off. With a parting tool having a point 1/16" wide—it can be made from the tang of a file—cut a groove 1/16" deep in the face. Remove from the lathe.

Now mount a small maple block on a faceplate and turn a ring the size of the groove, fill the groove with glue, and force the ring into it. When the glue has dried, remount in the lathe and cut the maple block off with the parting tool.

Rub wood filler on the work and let it dry. Apply shellac. While wet, hold a cloth, moistened with shellac, alcohol, and a few drops of oil, against the lid and run the lathe at moderate speed for a hard, dry finish. Then turn the lid off, leaving \( \frac{1}{2} \)" on the underside to fit into the bowl.

Turn out and finish the inside of the bowl. Glue felt to the bottom.—BENJAMIN NIELSEN.





Groove is cut 1/16" deep in face of block



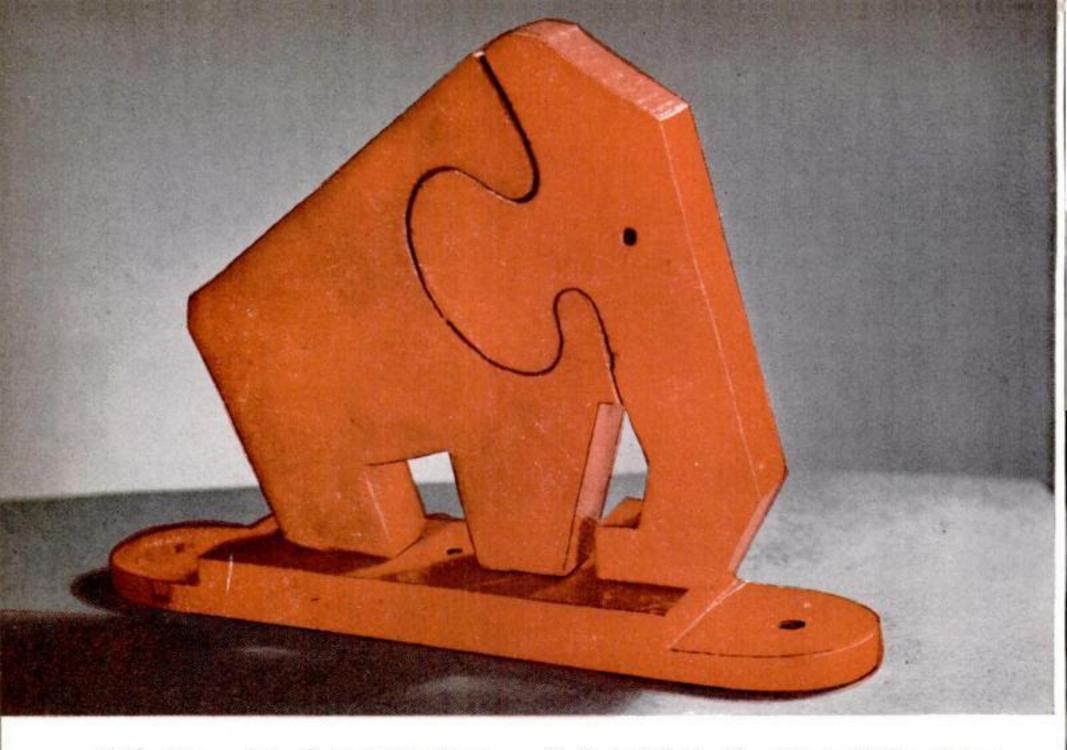
Maple ring turned 1/16" for bowl-lid inlay



Ring ready for gluing into groove in block



Work is remounted and maple block cut off



### JIG-SAWED MENAGERIE

TEACHES CHILDREN TO MATCH COLORS AND SHAPES

#### By Phoebe Knight

A SET of these colorful cut-out animals will keep young minds and hands happily occupied for many hours. Putting the figures together teaches a child to discriminate between colors, to fit matching shapes, and, in conjunction with picture books, to recognize the various animals represented. It also develops his creative instinct, and rewards him with a sense of accomplishment—factors today recognized as essential to proper development.

The figures can be cut on a band or jig saw. Lay out the patterns on 34" plywood by means of 12" squares, as in the accompanying drawings. The arrangement shown makes it possible to cut all twelve from a 12" by 24" sheet.

The scroll cuts that enable the figures to be taken apart need not be precisely as shown, but can be free-hand. Keep them smooth, however, and avoid sharp corners.

Bases are of ¾" white pine, maple, or other available wood. The end rabbets are slightly deeper than half the thickness of the stock, and can be made on a jointer, band saw, or circular saw. A disk or belt sander will quickly round the ends, leaving them smooth for finishing. Locate the holes in these ends accurately so that the bases may be joined interchangeably. Into each base drill three, four, or five ¼" holes, accurately spaced 1½" apart. A strip of tin with five punch marks makes a convenient template for marking their locations.

Assemble each figure temporarily and drill two ¼" holes 1½", 2¼", or 3½" apart—according to the size of the animal—into the bottom edge. This permits mounting the smaller figures on any base.

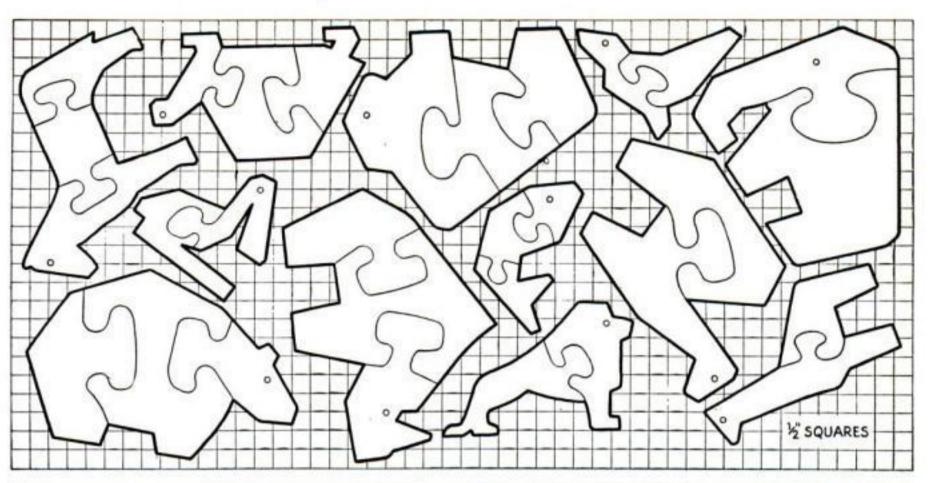
The pegs are 1¼" long pieces of ¼" maple doweling, sanded smooth to an easy fit in the holes, then waxed and polished. Cut plenty so that you can replace lost ones. Leaving them loose affords the child another interesting problem.

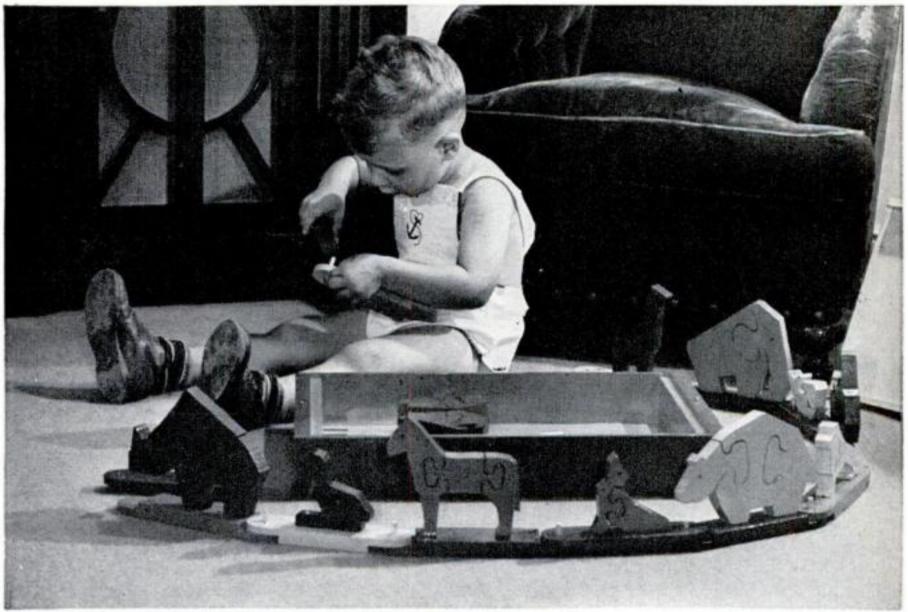
The entire set of figures can be kept neatly in a box built as shown.

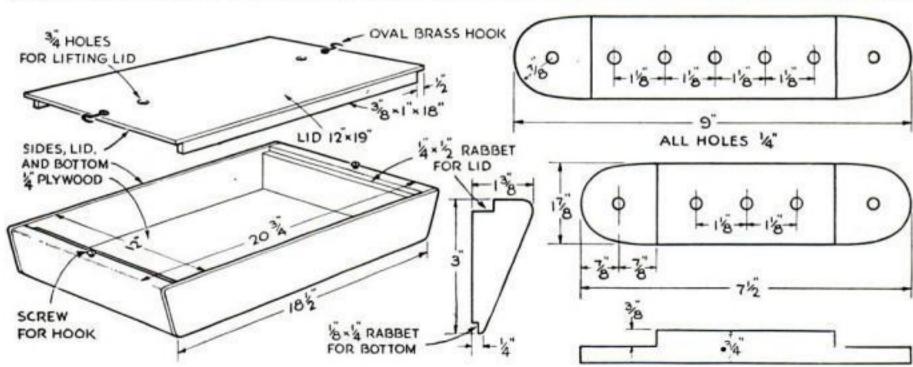
Sand all the animal parts well to remove splinters. Paint them and the bases in four or more colors, such as bright red, green, blue, and yellow, finishing all edges. Be sure to use nonpoisonous, washable enamel.

CRAFTWORK

POPULAR SCIENCE







### DANNY DRAKE

### HOLDS PLACE CARDS IN HIS BILL

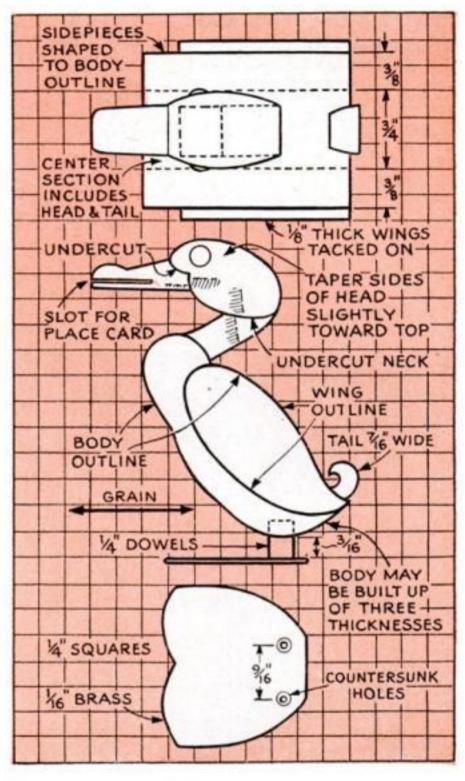


BOTH children and adults will enjoy having these amusing little place-card holders on the party table. For that reason it may be well to make up two sets of them—one painted in bright colors for young guests, and the other finished as described below, for use at informal dinners.

The original was band-sawed out of 1½" mahogany, the shoulders and tail sawed and carved to shape, and part of the body left the natural color of the wood. However, any well-seasoned stock that does not split readily can be used. Carving can be simplified by gluing the body up of three pieces. See that the grain of the center section runs lengthwise of the bill.

Drill the body for \( \frac{1}{4} \)" dowels to serve as legs, and slot the bill with a fine saw blade. After sanding smooth, apply a thin coat of shellac, sand, and apply a heavier coat.

The top of the head, tail, and wings are black. The latter may be painted separately and bradded in place when dry. Paint the front of the neck and body white. Insert bright gilt upholstery tacks for eyes. Cut



the base out with a jeweler's saw. Attach it with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " flathead brass screws to the dowels that form the legs.

### Unique Dowel-and-Plastic Rack for Three Small Flowerpots

You can make this holder in an eve-

ning. Section at right shows how

dowels are slotted for the bottom

SHAPE the ends of two 15" lengths of ¾" dowel on a sander, and cut a ¼" deep blind slot lengthwise in each one on a circular saw. The end slots are cut at an angle of 60 deg. Finish with two coats of clear lacquer. The curved top may be of phenol-formaldehyde plastic or plywood, 1/16" by 3½" by 14¼".

Cut the 2" holes for the pots with a circle cutter, on a jig saw, or by scoring with dividers. The 2" by 13\\\4" bottom piece may be of the same material. Assemble with escutcheon pins driven into predrilled holes at each end of the stringers. Approximate time, 3 hours.—E. R. D.



Carved model of one of the most popular of the picturesque rifles used in the Civil War. Slightly over 19" in length, it presents an interesting problem in whittling. It can be mounted on a plaque, if desired

## Historic Sharp's Rifle

### IN A HALF-SIZE WHITE-PINE MODEL

### BY CARL G. ERICH

THE prototype of this half-size whittled model is the Sharp's rifle, patented in 1852 and widely used in the Civil War. Experts consider it to have had the best of all breech-loading systems used in that period. Even the Confederates made Sharp's

NO.1 NO.2 NO.3 NO.4 NO.5

TEMPLATES

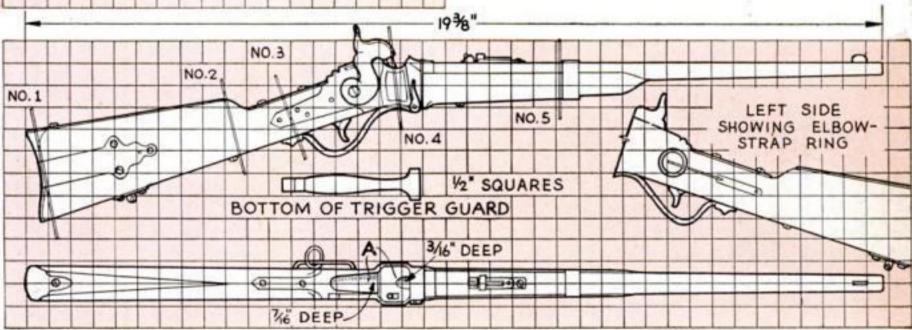
carbines in large quantities, although it was originally a Northern gun manufactured in Hartford, Conn.

Make a working drawing and transfer it to a 1" by 4" white-pine board. Jig-saw the inside of the trigger guard first, then the outside shape. Draw a center line around the sawed edge as an aid in carving.

The two hollows marked A are shaped with a small gouge or a knife. Carve the hammer separately from ½" stock and dowel and glue it in place. Round and slot one end of the dowel to resemble an ovalhead wood screw. Bend the ring holder from 3/32" wire, the ring from 1/16" wire.

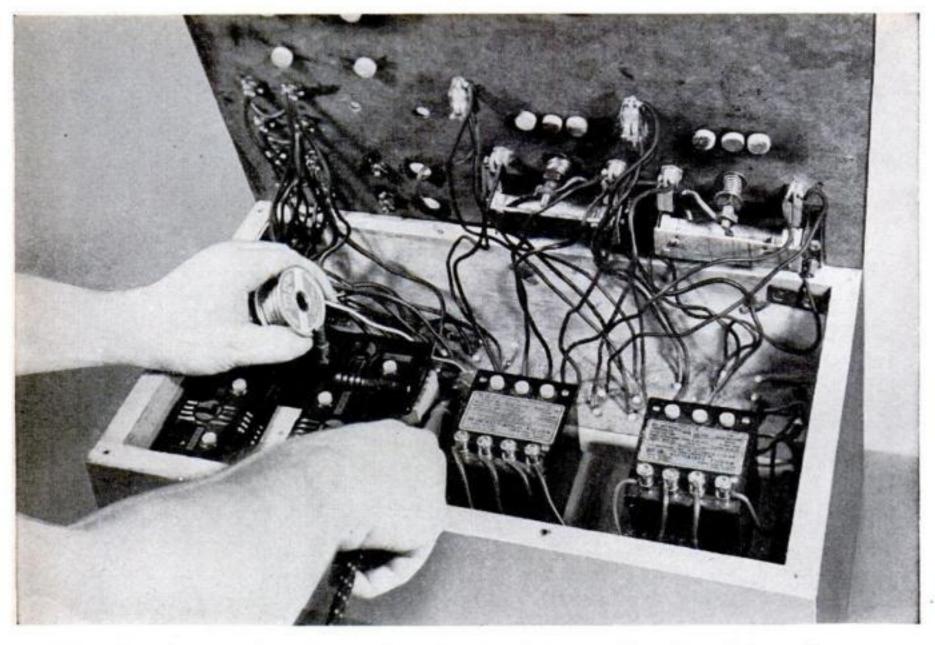
The barrel is bored 3/16" to a depth of an inch or two. After the carving and sanding have been completed, score the outline of the recess-cover plate on the right side of the stock, and all the other markings, with a narrow V-cut. Should a part break while carving, glue it back, and allow to dry before proceeding. Cut trigger and guard across the grain.

The model may be left natural or colored, and lends itself to mounting on a plaque.

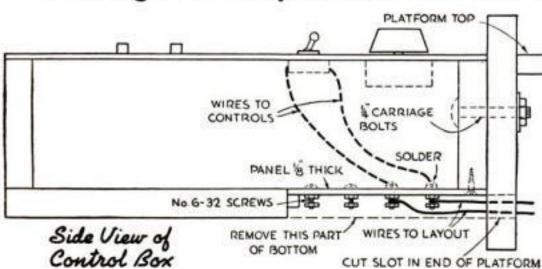


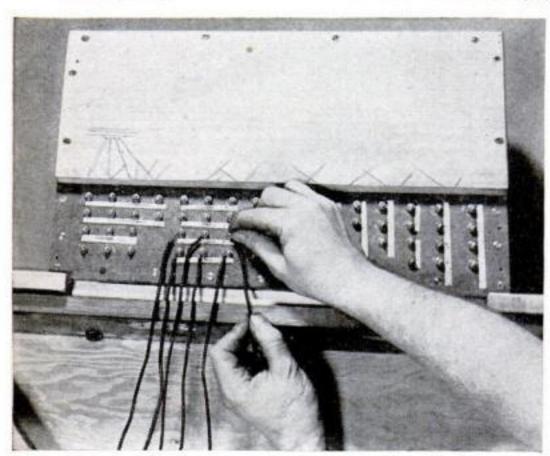
Working drawings of rifle, hammer, and templates. The rifle is laid out on ½" squares, while ¼" squares are used to show the profile of the hammer and the templates employed in shaping the gunstock

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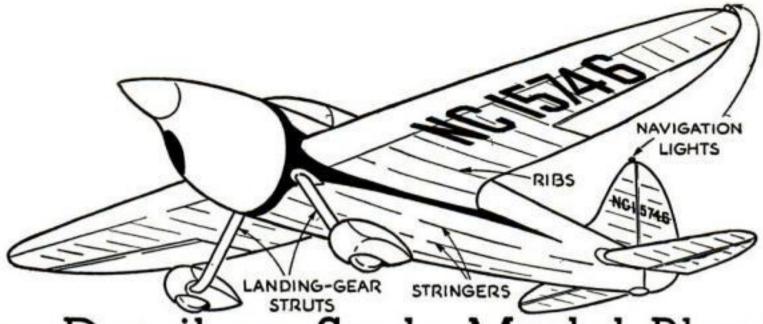
### Binding Posts Improve the Control Box of a Model Railway





Wiring a complicated modelrailway layout if the wires from the rheostats, switches, and other equipment housed in a control box of the type shown are brought out to easily accessible binding posts fixed to the underside of the box. The chance of making wrong connections is lessened.

Inside the box, solder connecting wires from the controls to the slotted heads of the screws, and identify the binding posts on strips of paper pasted adjacent to each group of posts on the outside of the panel. Nail blocks on each end of a ¼" plywood cover to bring it flush with the bottom of the box. The side of the cover is left open for wires leading to the layout.—C. ELMER BLACK.



### Better Detail on Scale-Model Planes

### By FRANK ZAIC

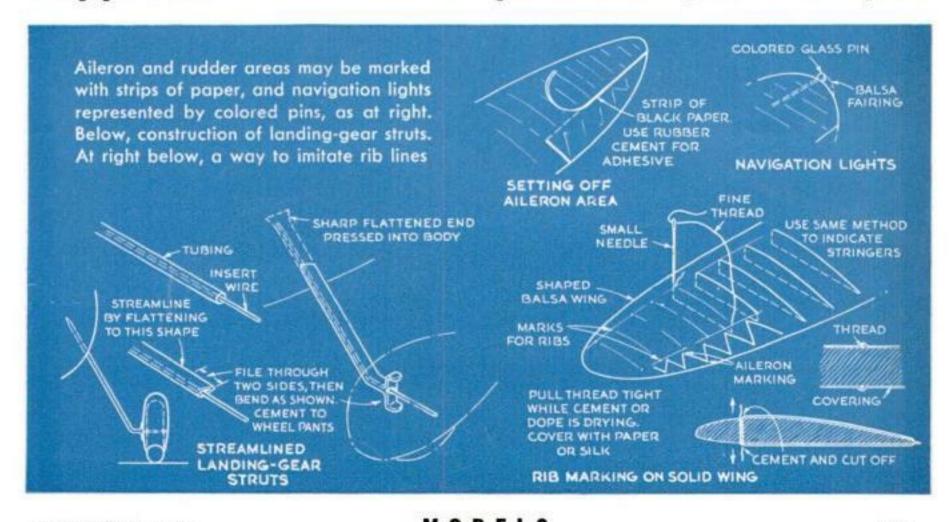
REALISTIC nonflying scale models are easily made by carving the parts from the solid balsa and simulating the constructional features. Finish the surfaces smoothly before cementing the parts together. After assembling, apply several coats of dope and rub down with very fine siliconcarbide paper, used wet. Pores can be filled with successive coats of wood filler, each sanded well before the next is applied, or concealed by covering the model with thin silk or tissue paper before applying colored dope.

IMITATION RIB LINES. To give the appearance of ribs or stringers under fabric, stitch fine silk thread over the wing or fuselage as shown, pull tight, and apply dope sparingly along the thread. When dry, cut the waste ends off carefully. Be sure spacing is uniform. Cover entire wing surface and threads with paper or silk.

NAVIGATION LIGHTS. Put colored-glass push pins into the edges of the wings and rudder; then cement on fairing pieces of balsa shaped in front to fit the pinhead.

marking off surface areas. Apply very narrow strips of black paper, using rubber cement as an adhesive, to set off rudder and aileron areas. This method may also be used for forming stripes on long or flat surfaces. Spread rubber cement on both the surface and the paper strip, let dry, and press the strip in place.

struts are easily broken, and it is hard to fasten wire axles to them without resorting to unsightly thread bindings. The strut shown is made of thin-walled tubing and wire. Insert the latter before squeezing the tube to shape. Press and cement the flattened upper end of the tube into the fuselage. The bottom end may be bent out as shown to provide a cementing area for wheel "pants."

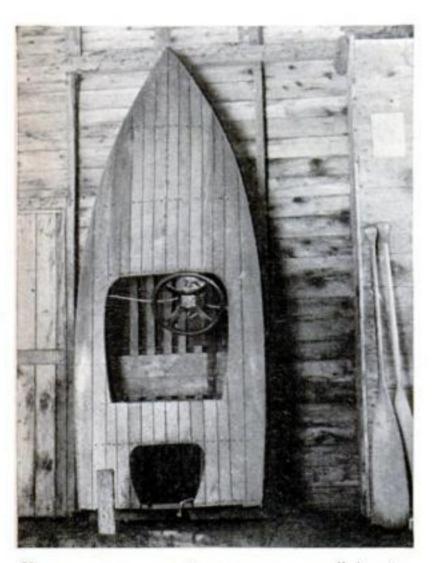


# Storing Your Boat for the Winter

the winter probably damage more boats than are ever worn out from normal use. Time spent in caring for your craft in the late fall will be more than repaid when you take to the water again, and may prevent serious and costly checking, opening of seams, and other troubles.

shall boats. Store in an unheated garage, shed, or boathouse, comparatively dry and with good circulation of air. Kayaks or canoes can be laid on an overhead rack; short outboard boats stood on end. A boat that cannot be stored indoors may be kept under a building if there is room to raise it off the ground, out of reach of snow and rain. Excessive drying of planks results from storage in a heated room or near a furnace. Paint may crack, seams open, and planks check or even split. Dampness causes fittings to corrode, and often buckles planks, especially on the deck or sides. Bad air causes dry-rot.

cradle for larger boats. Craft bigger than a rowboat or small outboard runabout must



To save space, as in a garage, small boats can be up-ended and stored against a wall. Drawings at right and on facing page show a cradle, a cover framework, and blocking

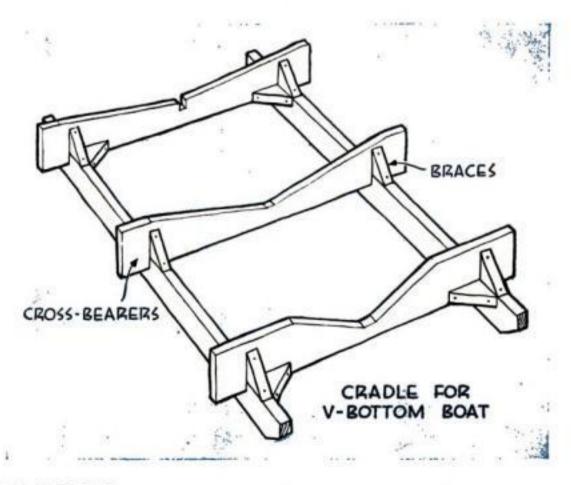
be supported to prevent sagging. A cradle to fit the bottom is ideal. It should have three or more cross-bearers, depending upon the size. The boat may be floated over a cradle, under which rollers have been placed, and pulled up on shore with an automobile. An auto trailer with a cradle on it to fit your boat is excellent for storage.

Craft so large that they must be hauled out on marine ways and stored in a regular boat yard should be blocked up as shown in the drawings, the keel supported at no less than three places.

canvas cover. For outdoor storage, a cover is necessary. Canvas is satisfactory if supported on a framework to shed rain and snow. The framework should have a ridge-pole, rafters, and eaves battens. The battens hold the canvas away from the hull, permitting air to circulate inside. The canvas may be nailed or lashed down. It should be at least 10-oz. material, preferably water-proofed. Tar paper may be used, but will last only a single season.

WATERPROOF-PLYWOOD COVER. Outdoor plywood will outlast canvas. Make the cover in sections, numbered for reassembling the next fall. Still better is a collapsible shed of waterproof plywood.

OUTBOARD MOTORS. Drain the cooling system. Remove all water from the gear housing, and pack with fresh grease. Remove the



# BY BRUCE AND WILLARD CRANDALL

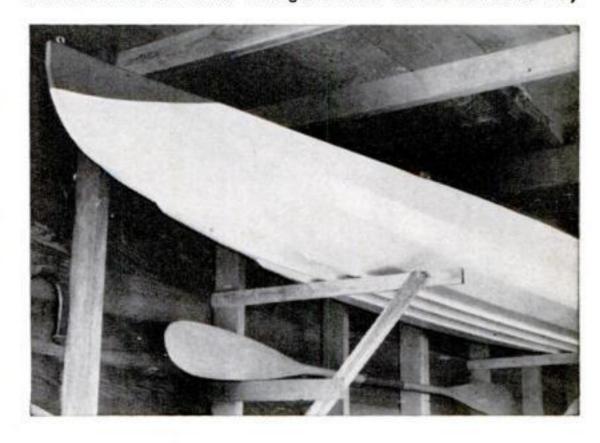
spark plugs and pour a teaspoonful of lubricating oil into each cylinder. Turn the flywheel over several times, and replace the plugs. Wipe the outside with a cloth soaked in oil, and wrap to protect the ignition system from dust. Store the motor in a dry place.

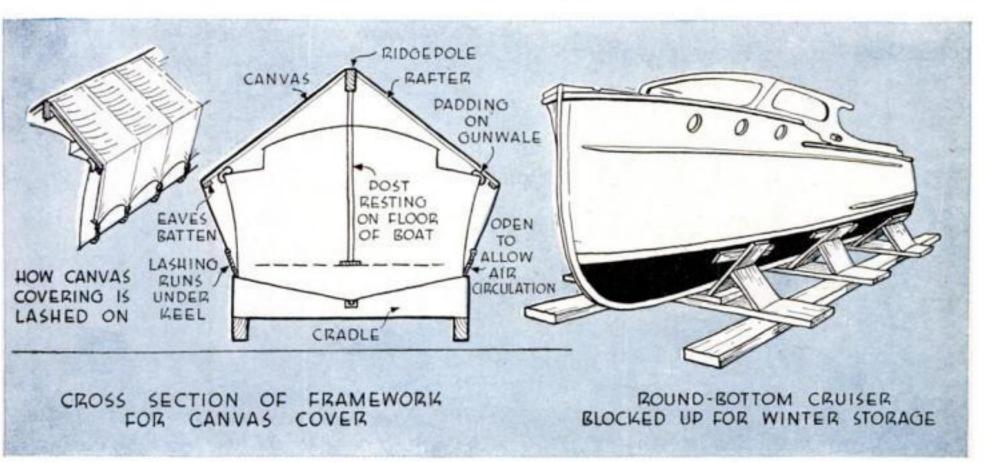
INBOARD-POWERED BOATS. Drain the water from the bilge, and be sure fresh air can circulate to all parts inside the hull. Drain all water from the motor, water pumps, bilge pumps, and water tanks. Put a teaspoonful of oil into each cylinder and turn the motor over a few times. Drain the gasoline tanks, and loosen the turnbuckles in the steering line. Coat with grease any parts likely to rust. To prevent the battery from freezing or deteriorating, remove it and keep it charged during the winter. It may be advisable also to remove certain ignition parts and store them in a dry place.

sails in a dry, well-ventilated place, hanging them and rope gear out of the reach of rats and mice.



Boats under 20' in length can be hauled out of the water on rollers, as above. Float the hull over the cradle, put rollers underneath, and pull with your automobile. Below, kayak is on overhead rack for winter storage. Handle canoes the same way

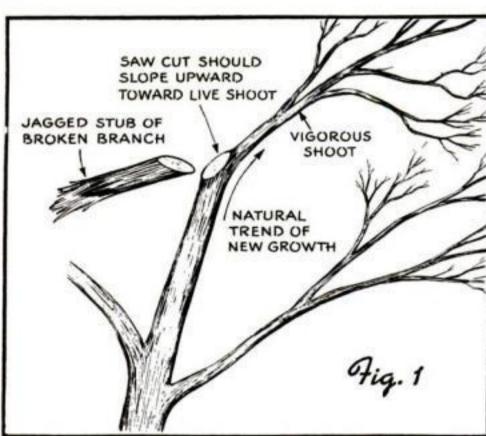




### HOW TO SAVE

## Storm-Damaged Trees





CUT BROKEN BRANCHES on a slant back to the nearest vigorous shoot. If none is nearby, trim off the splintered end and watch for signs of new growth, whereupon the break may be cut back toward it

#### By JOHN MODROCH

ANY a splendid tree lost because of storm damage cannot be replaced at any price. Prompt attention given such a tree may save it or at least forestall the need for expensive tree surgery later on.

The jagged stubs of broken limbs and branches should be removed as soon as possible (Fig. 1). If a heavy limb is broken near the trunk, saw it off as close to the trunk as possible, leaving no projecting stub. To prevent the limb from falling and stripping off the bark, support it with a prop or a rope (Fig. 2). Where this is impracticable, make two preliminary cuts in the order shown in Fig. 3. A branch left without a vigorous shoot at its tip will usually die.

A narrow-bladed, coarse-toothed pruning saw is the most practical one, but a keyhole saw is useful for working in crotches on small branches, and a coarse-toothed ripsaw can



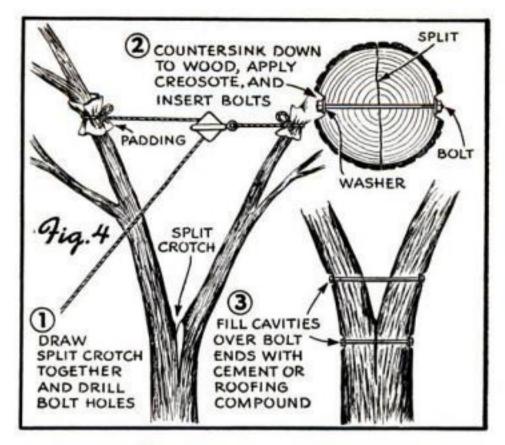
be used on heavy limbs. A bolt cutter, if available, can be used for pruning small branches and twigs.

The fresh wounds of most trees should be protected. Common shellac, creosote, white lead, and asphaltum paint are all satisfactory for this purpose. Because of their antiseptic qualities, either creosote or shellac is often used as a first coat, followed by a more durable second coat of asphaltum paint, or a brushing mixture of white lead and linseed oil, to which lampblack may be added to match the gray of the bark. Outdoor spar varnish also may be used as a second coat.

However, no dressing should be used on the wounds of stone-fruit trees such as peach, plum, and cherry. Furthermore, the gummy sap that exudes from the wounds of resinous trees, such as pines, amply protects them, and it is necessary only to smear the resin well over the cut surface. Care should be

taken not to cover uninjured bark with paint or any other substance that would seal its pores. During sap-flowing seasons, some trees are difficult to dress. Apply the dressing immediately upon completing the cut, before the rush of sap has begun.

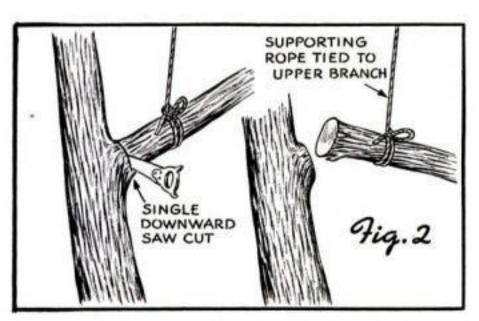
Long iron bolts (Fig. 4) can be used to prevent a weakened crotch from splitting and to draw the parts of a split crotch to-



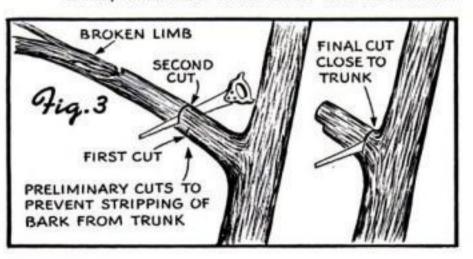
HOW TO REENFORCE a tree that has cracked in a crotch. If the crack is wide, use a rope tackle to draw the parts together before drilling the bolt holes

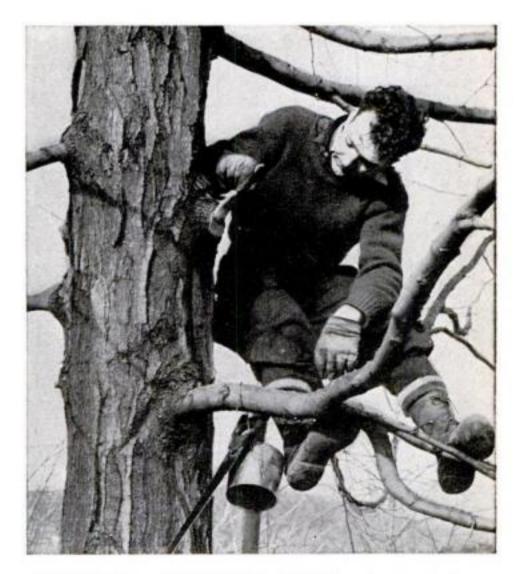
gether. Creosote the holes as thoroughly as possible, as well as the countersunk areas, before putting the bolts in place. Finally, cover the bolt ends with Portland cement or asphaltum roofing compound.

Burns, whether caused by lightning or fire, are self-sterilizing. Scrape off the charred wood and apply one of the second coats previously mentioned.



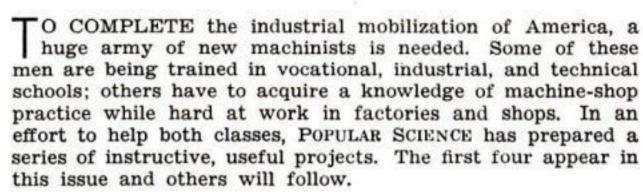
IN CUTTING OFF HEAVY LIMBS, support them with a rope or prop and saw as close to the trunk as possible. Where this is impracticable, make cuts in the order indicated below





EXCEPT ON STONE-FRUIT TREES and very resinous trees, all cuts and wounds should be dressed. In sap-flowing seasons, apply the dressing to each saw cut at once, before the sap has a chance to ooze out

## MACHINISTS FOR

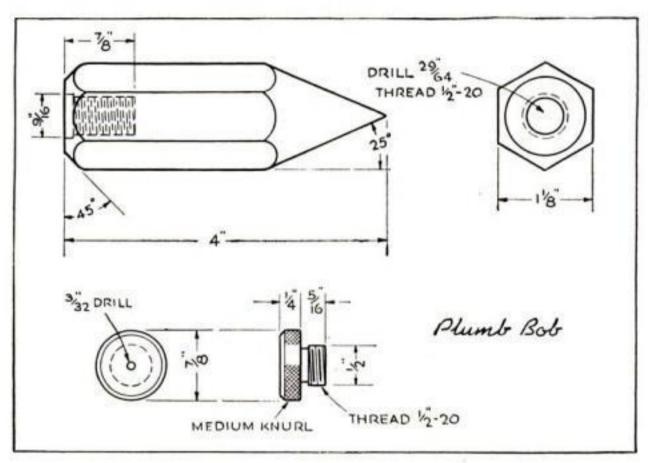


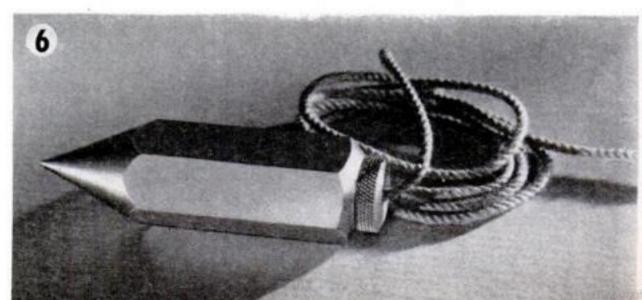
### Turning a Plumb Bob from Hexagon Stock

AN ACCURATE plumb bob can be made quickly from either brass or steel. A short piece of 1\%" hexagon stock is chucked in the lathe and supported by the tailstock while the roughing cut is made, as shown in Fig. 1. After the point has been roughed out, the stock is cut in two, and a finishing cut taken (Fig. 2). The stock is then reversed in the chuck (Fig. 3), and the end drilled and tapped to the dimensions given in the drawings below. By supporting the outboard end of the tap with the tailstock center as shown also in Fig. 3, the threads can be accurately cut.

The small end cap is turned to shape on the end of a solid rod (Fig. 4), then threaded, drilled, knurled, and cut off. This cap (Fig. 5) allows the cord to be fastened centrally.

The completed plumb bob, with cap and cord attached and ready for use, is shown at the bottom of the page in Fig. 6.

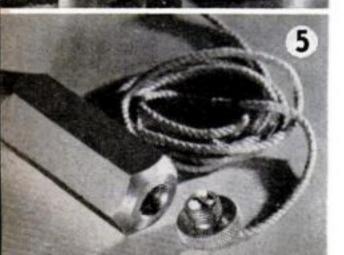


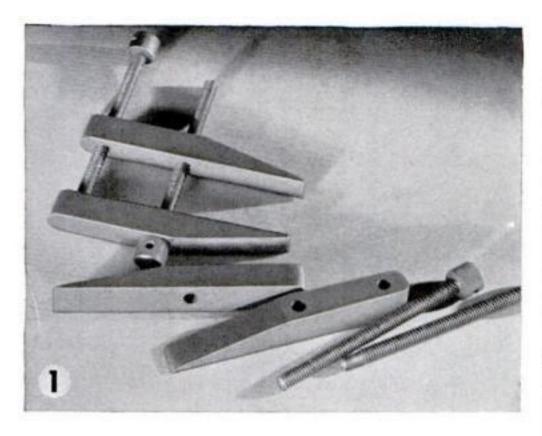












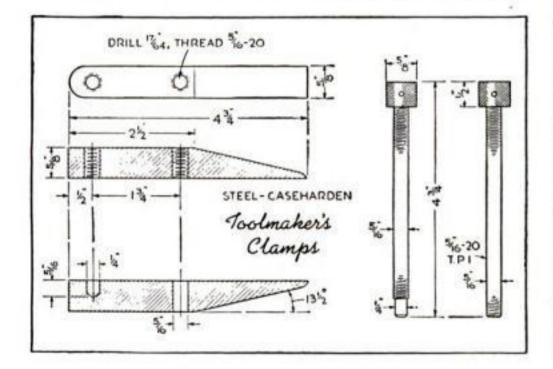
How to Make a Pair of Small Clamps

TOOLMAKERS' clamps have many uses. As a rule, they are purchased, but making a pair is an instructive project.

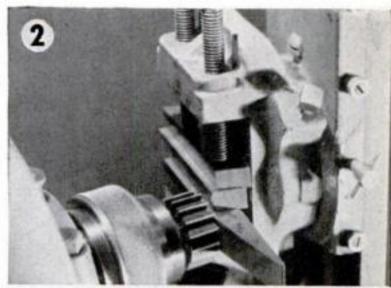
The clamp jaws (see Fig. 1 and drawings) are made from 5%" square stock, while the screws are turned from 5/8" round stock. Both, when complete, are casehardened.

When the stock for the jaws has been cut to length, each jaw is milled at an angle in the milling attachment, which is set at 131/2 deg. (Fig. 2). The back end of each is then rounded on the disk sander (Fig. 3) and the holes for the screws are drilled (Fig. 4). One jaw is drilled with two 17/64" holes and tapped 5/16"-20, while the other jaw is drilled at one end to clear one screw, and drilled partially through at the other end to receive the shouldered screw.

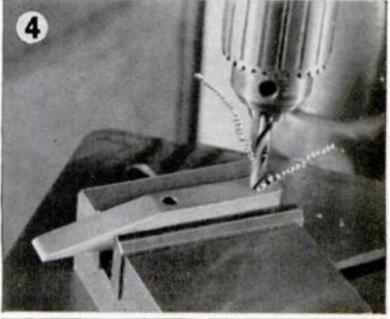
The screws are turned, threaded, and knurled at one chucking (Fig. 5). A 5/32" hole is drilled through the head of each for a short steel rod.

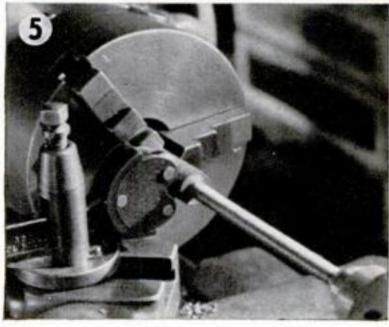


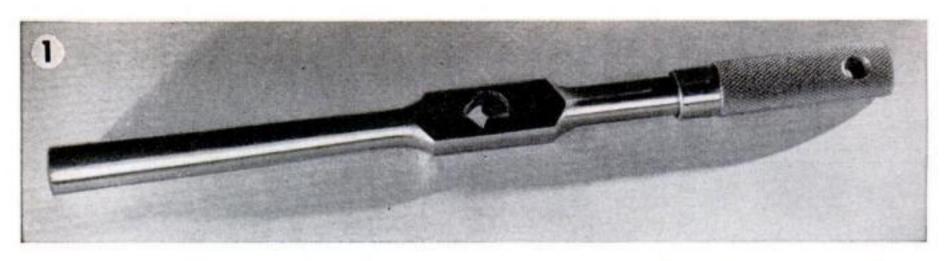
By C. W. WOODSON



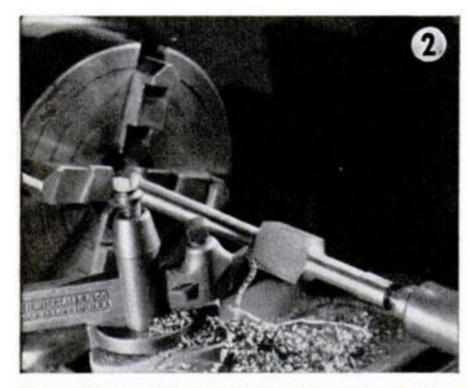






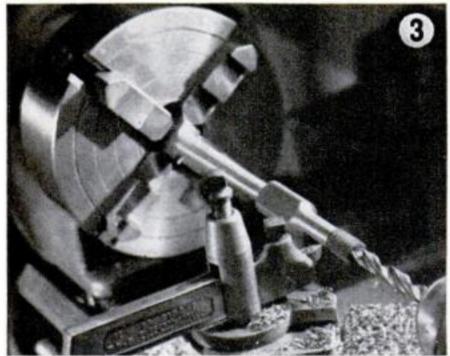


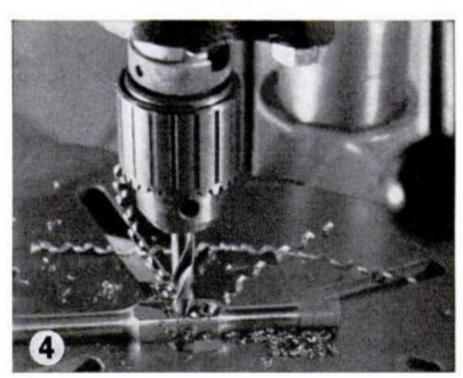
### Constructing a Set of Tap Wrenches to Add to Your Tool Kit

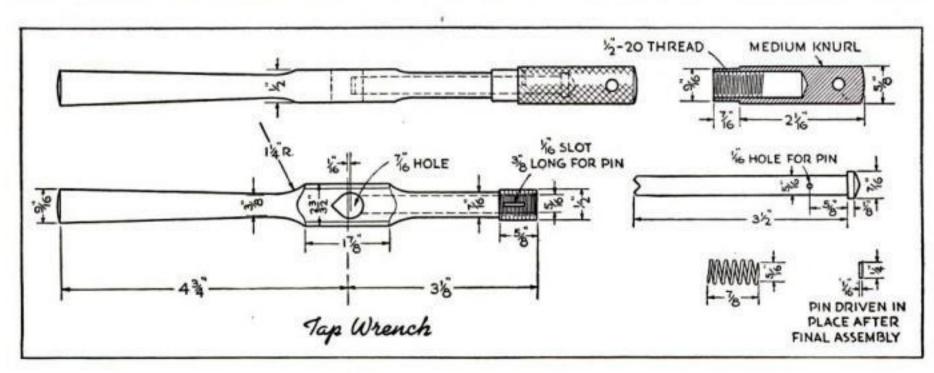


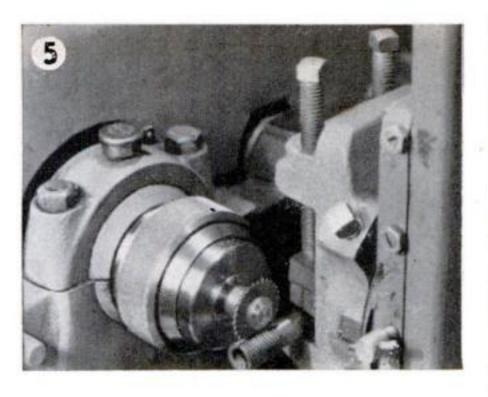
THE tap wrench shown in Fig. 1 and the accompanying drawings will take taps from 3/16" to 5/16", but the dimensions can be changed and the wrench made smaller or larger. A set of three of these tap wrenches in your kit would handle a wide range of taps, as well as reamers and drills with square or round shanks. Turning them in the lathe is not a difficult operation, but it will add materially to your practice work.

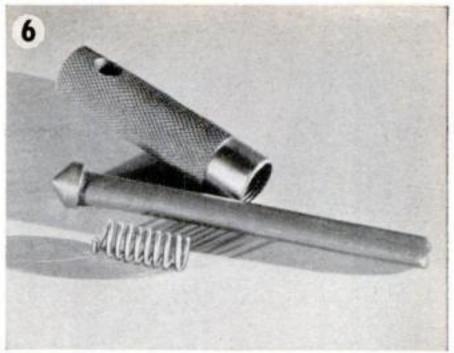
The body of the wrench is made from 9/16" by 34" tool steel. It is centerdrilled on one end and rough-turned to shape (Fig. 2). In Fig. 3 the threads are being





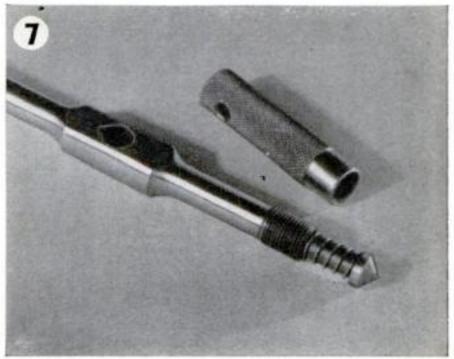






cut for the loose handle, and the end is also being drilled for the clamping rod. The hole to receive the tap shanks is drilled as in Fig. 4; note that it is slightly off center. The V-notch, which is filed in by hand, will center the hole.

The slot for the pin which holds the clamp rod in place is cut in the milling attachment (Fig. 5). The loose handle is turned to shape and knurled, and it is drilled and tapped at the same chucking. The clamp rod is next turned. Dimensions are given in the drawings. Figure 6 shows the finished handle with the spring and clamp rod; Fig. 7, the parts assembled.

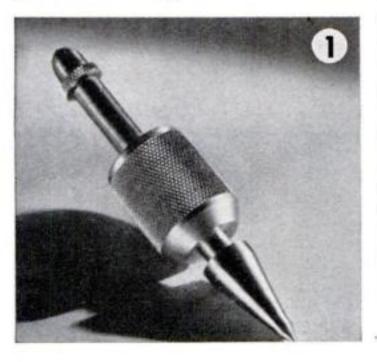


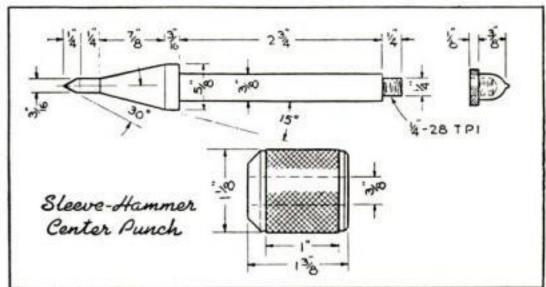
### Sliding Sleeve on Center Punch Serves in Place of Hammer

THE construction of this center punch (Fig. 1) is such that the use of a hammer is unnecessary. A sliding sleeve is used as the driver. The punch will therefore be a welcome addition to the tools of the mechanic who has to do layout work within close limits.

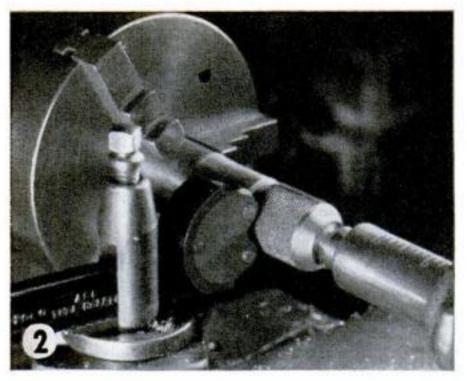
The center punch should be made from a good grade of tool steel, hardened and ground on the point. For the sliding-sleeve hammer, however, less expensive machinery steel can be used. It should be 1\%" in diameter.

Chucked in the lathe, the sliding-sleeve hammer is first centerdrilled and turned to shape, then knurled for a better handgrip as in Fig. 2. The hole for the center punch is drilled and reamed, and the finished part is then cut off with a parting tool as shown in Fig. 3. After this operation, the end





Dimensions for making center punch, cap, and sliding sleeve. All three parts can be turned from two small pieces of stock

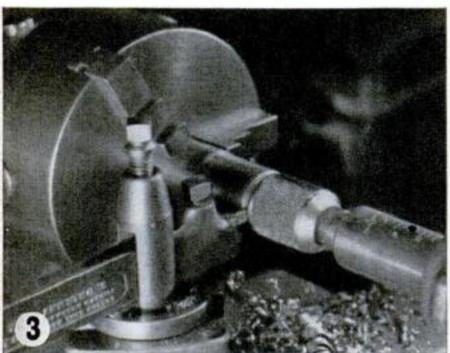


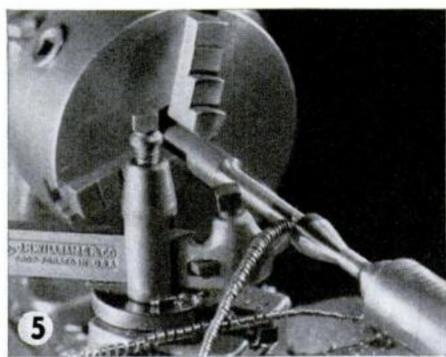
of the sliding sleeve is faced smooth. In making the center punch, a %" bar of tool steel is chucked as in Fig. 5 and centerdrilled for tailstock support. Then it is turned to the dimensions given in the drawing, cut off, and filed to a point in the lathe. Reverse it and thread the other end with a die for the cap. This is turned on the end of a rod as in Fig. 4; it is knurled

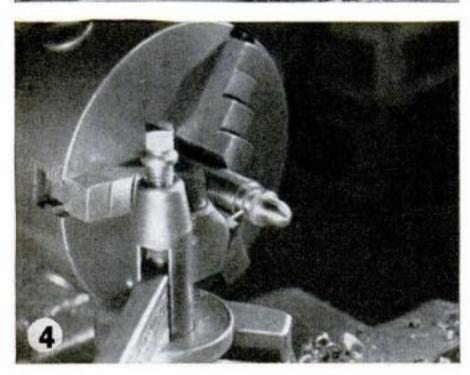
the center punch.

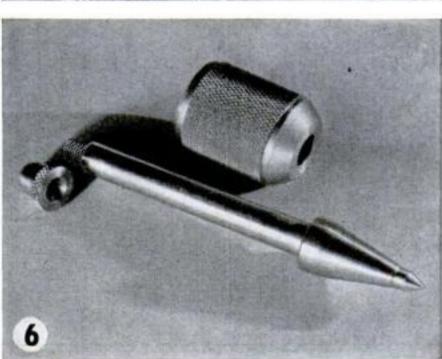
Harden the head, then temper it to a straw color. Finish the point by grinding. The completed parts are shown in Fig. 6.

and cut off, reversed in the chuck, and drilled and tapped \(\frac{1}{4}\)"-28 to fit the end of

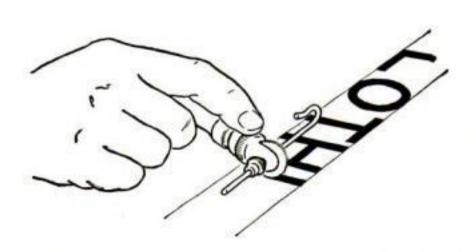






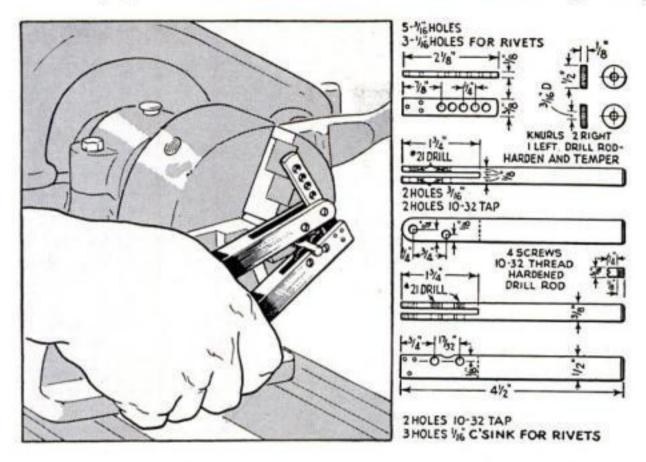


### Paint Striper Big Help in Lettering Small Signs Neatly



NEATER, faster, and more uniform lettering can be done by the amateur sign painter with a small striper instead of a brush. The guide arm of the striper must first be removed or turned up out of the way. Sketch in the lettering with a pencil and go over it with the striper held like a pencil or pen. If the striping wheel is not as wide as the required letters, make parallel strokes until you have built up the necessary width.—Eugene H. Morrison.

### Simply Made Nutcracker Tool Does Speedy Job of Knurling



HELD like a nutcracker or a pair of pliers, this knurling tool enables one to knurl faster than with a regular lathe knurler. It can also be used on rods chucked in the drill press or even on work clamped stationary in a bench vise.

The handles and adjustable connecting bar are made from cold-rolled steel as shown in the drawings. The knurls may be made from ½" drill rod in the lathe with an ordinary lathe knurling tool. Use each roller separately for the diamond knurl—that is, left and right leads. Drill, ream, and cut off to ½" or the thickness of the slot in the handles.

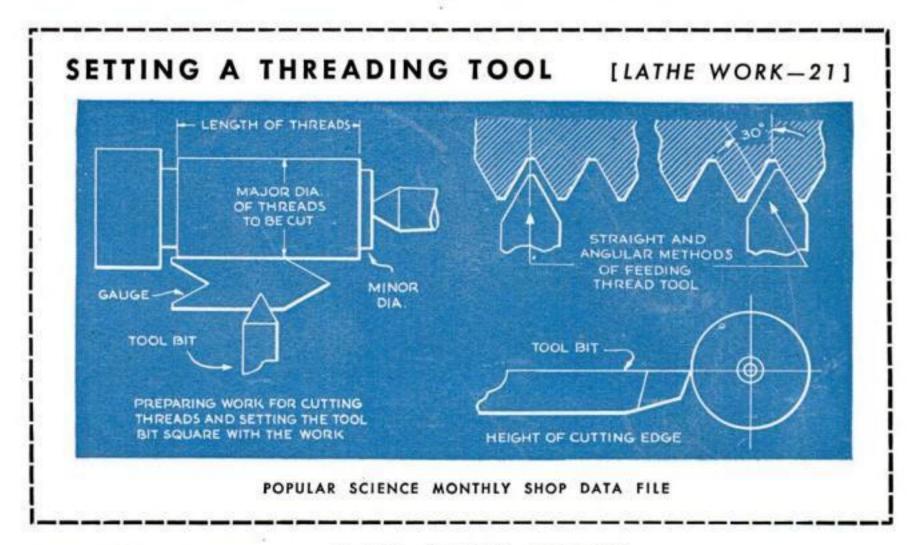
Make up sets of medium, coarse, and fine knurls. Since you will have two of one angle and one of the other, the tool will travel according to the angle of the two similar knurls. Straight knurls are made the same way for coarse, medium, and fine work. The final operation is to harden and

temper the knurls. The screws that hold them are also hardened after being threaded, cut to length, and slotted.

A somewhat simpler method is to laminate or rivet together pieces of ½" by ½" cold-rolled steel instead of using a solid piece ½" by ¾". Four knurls may be used, and the tool does neat knurling up to 1" in diameter.—George A. Zimmermann.

### Circular-Saw Table Acts as Substitute for Costly Surface Plate

CIRCULAR-SAW tables of the better grade are usually ground with such precision that they may be used as substitutes for expensive surface plates. Because their construction offers excellent means of clamping work, they will serve for holding a variety of parts during assembly. Like all surface plates, they should be carefully treated. Do not hammer on them or expose them to excessive heat.—H. R. H.



# TWIN-CARBON ARC TORCH

### DOES PREHEATING, BRAZING, AND LIGHT WELDING

### By WALTER E. BURTON

TWO-CARBON torch of this type is a useful adjunct to the ordinary arc welder. It can be used for many jobs that would otherwise require a gas torch, and will do brazing considerably faster than a straight acetylene (nonoxygen) brazing torch, besides certain types of light welding for which a single-rod arc is unsuitable.

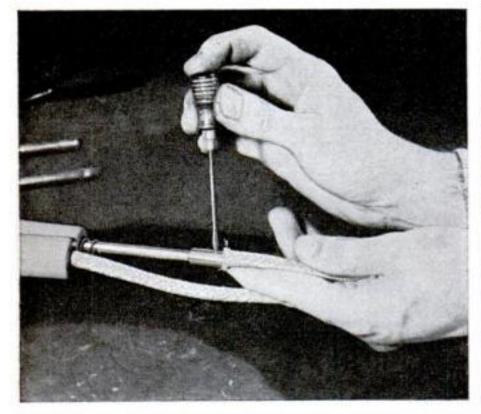
The materials required are: 2 brass rods ½" in diameter and 1½" long, and 2 brass rods ¼" by 11"; 2 brass collars ¾" in diameter, with ¼" holes and set screws; 2 pieces 1" maple doweling 5¾" long; several pieces ¾" round brass rod; 2 set screws 8-32 and 2, 6-32; 2 coil springs to fit over the ¼" rods; fiber, heavy stranded asbestoscovered cable, and miscellaneous nails, screws, and metal bands.

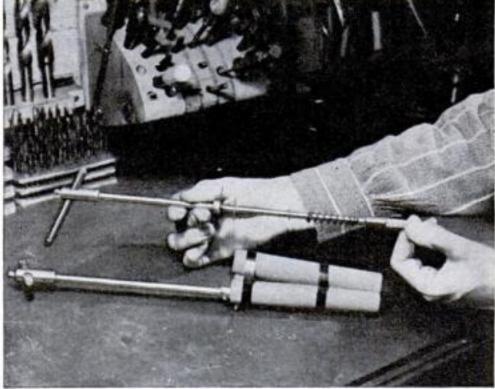
The 14" rods are threaded 14"-20 at both

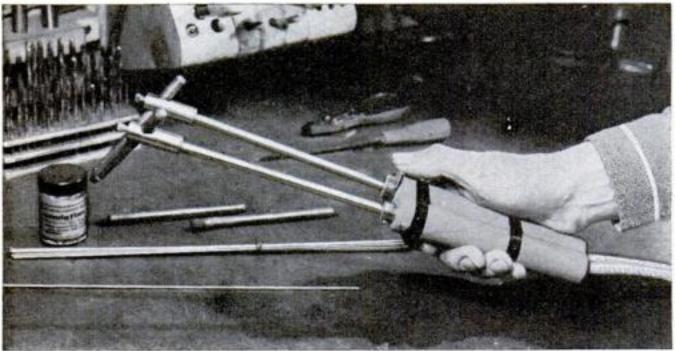
ends, and the two pieces of ½" rod tapped the same at one end, and tapped at the other to receive the 8-32 set screws. The 17/64" holes for the carbons are drilled at an angle of about 70 deg.

Centerdrill two ¾" lengths of the ¾" rod with a No. 7 drill and tap one end of each ¼"-20. Ream or counterbore the other ends to receive the cable. Drill and tap a small hole radially for a 6-32 set screw to hold the cable.

The handles may be made of fiber or composition rod instead of maple doweling, if the builder prefers. They are bored lengthwise with a ¼" bit, then counterbored ½" to a depth of 2¼". Sand or file a flat spot at the counterbored end of the pieces so that they may be glued together to form a narrow "V." Glue a small block between the opposite ends, and nail or screw on two metal reënforcing strips as shown.





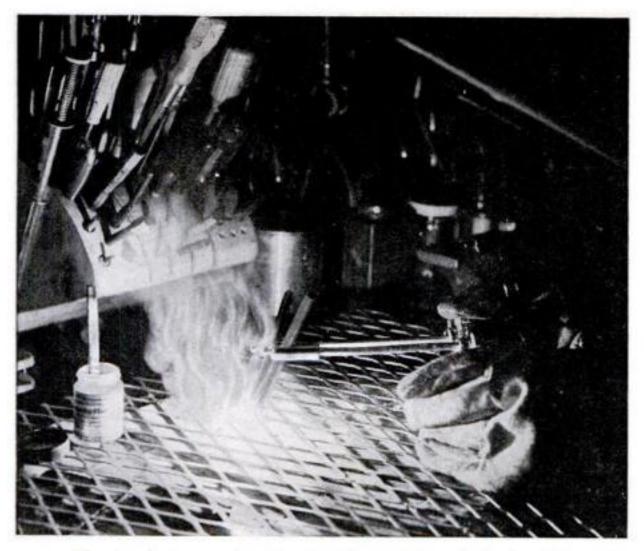


Above, left, attaching heavy asbestos-covered arc-lamp cable to one of the cable connectors

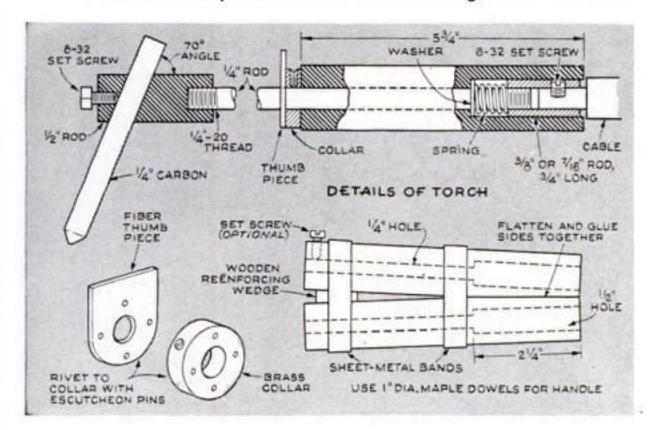
Above, right, assembly of movable rod, showing spring and fiber thumb piece riveted to collar

At left, the assembled torch. To strike an arc, touch carbons together by turning thumb piece, then separate them just a fraction of an inch

ELECTRICAL



The torch in use, brazing together pieces of steel netting. The arc is guided over the work much like the flame of a gas torch. Below, the construction drawings. For heavy-duty work, increase the size of the parts and add heat-radiating fins to the shafts



To one of the brass collars rivet the fiber thumb piece. Slip this on one shaft, slide the latter through one handle, and put on a washer and a spring as illustrated. Screw the cable connector fast. Attach the cable, and pull the shaft against the tension of the spring until the cable enters the handle. Then tighten the brass collar in place.

After assembling the other rod, adjust both so that the tips of the carbons will be in the position shown in the photographs when the torch is held in the hand. It should be possible to rotate one rod by means of the fiber piece with the thumb. The other rod can be locked in the proper position by thread-

ing a 6-32 set screw directly into the handle, as shown.

The 70-ampere arc-lamp cable sold by theater-supply stores is suitable for connecting the torch. This cable has an asbestos covering, which may be rendered more durable by coating it with spar varnish. However, No. 6 stranded 60-ampere cable will also do.

Carbons ¼" in diameter are suitable for most work, and these may be obtained from welding supply houses. The cored type should always be used for alternating current. Some authorities recommend metal-sheathed carbons, which seem to differ only in that they do not get red-hot as far back from the tip as the unclad type.

If a welding transformer is not available, the torch can be used with a resistance unit on the 110-volt lighting circuit, provided that the mains are heavy enough to carry a 20-ampere load. The resistor can be made from two or four standard electric-heater elements. If only two are used, they must be altered as shown in the drawings.

Remove the coiled wire, locate its approximate middle point, and silver solder to it a 21/2" piece of No. 14 bare copper wire. Rewind the coil on the porcelain spool and mark the location of the soldered lead. Drill a hole through the spool at this point, using a small drill bit sharpened to a long point. copper Thread the through the hole and connect it to the center terminal in-

side the spool. The ends of the resistance wire are connected together with a second piece of No. 14 copper wire and to the threaded jacket on the base. This alteration permits each element to pass four times the current it originally did.

Mount two porcelain sockets on a base with a 10-ampere switch to short out one of them. Cable clamps can be made from %" brass rod as illustrated. It may be well to shield the cable from heat by placing a collar of asbestos paper around the socket of the nearer element.

If four elements are used, they need not be altered, and the incidental heat is more readily dissipated. With the twoswitch arrangement shown, an intermediate current can be obtained. Either unit may be cooled by directing an electric fan against it.

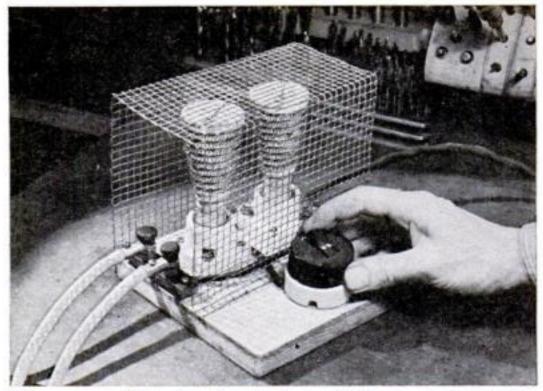
To strike the arc, bring the carbon tips together, then separate them a fraction of an inch. On a welding transformer, operate the torch at the lowest heat that will give an arc resembling a gas flame.

Aluminum welding should be done on a low-amperage tap, and some practice will be necessary to avoid burning the metal. Use a suitable flux and regular aluminum welding rod.

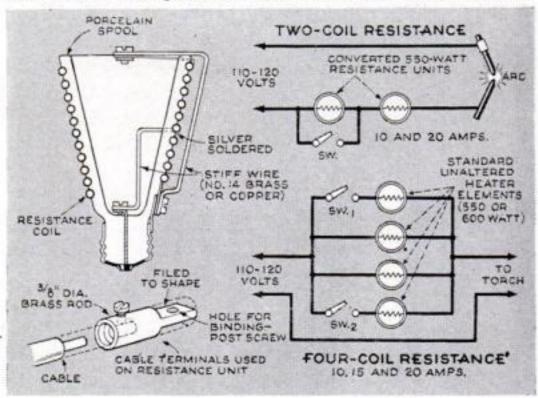
In doing hard or soft soldering, as in brazing, be sure to heat the work enough before applying the solder.

No electric welding equipment should ever be used without protection from the powerful ultraviolet rays the arc produces, to which no bare skin whatsoever should be exposed. Wear a welding helmet fitted with an approved window, and heavy gloves reaching well up on the wrists.

This torch is substantial enough for fairly heavy intermittent work. For heavy-duty operation the parts should be made heavier, and radiating fins can be added to the shafts to help dissipate heat before it reaches the handle.



Where no welding transformer is available, or on direct current, the torch may be connected through a simple resistance unit. Make a wire guard for the elements from hardware cloth

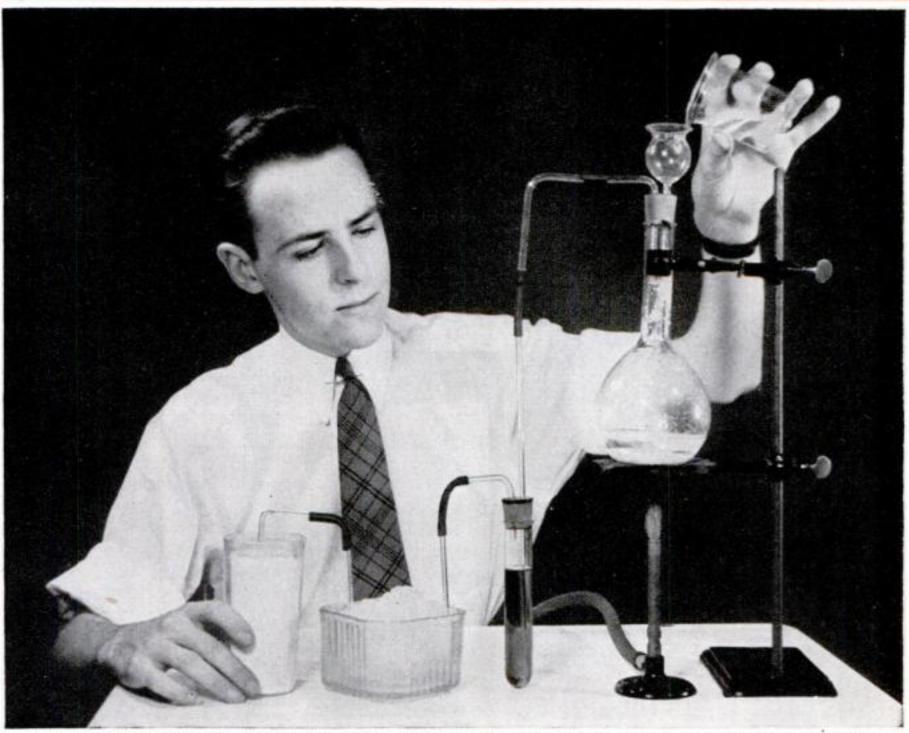


#### CARBON WELDING **ELECTRODES** [METAL WORKING]

Cored carbon electrodes for use with alternating current contain materials that make it easier to hold an arc and afford a long, hot-tail flame when used in torch-type holders. Cored A.C. electrodes are available in diameters of 3/16'',  $\frac{1}{4}''$ , 5/16'',  $\frac{3}{8}''$ , 7/16'', and  $\frac{1}{2}''$ , and in lengths of 6'', 8", and 12". The following are the recommended amperages for various sizes of A.C. electrodes:

POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY SHOP DATA FILE

# Cold from Chemistry



A miniature refrigerating plant: Heating a mixture of sodium sulphite and sulphuric acid produces sulphur dioxide gas, which is liquefied by passing through a tube buried in a bowl of ice and salt

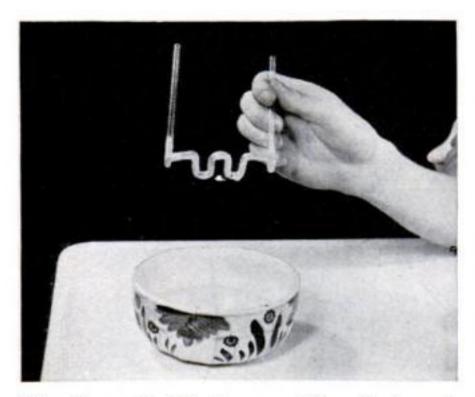
#### By KENNETH M. SWEZEY

AN YOU explain the mystery of the mechanical refrigerator in your kitchen—how a tiny gas flame, or a purring motor, turns heat into cold? Do you understand why "quick-freezing" of foods—is superior to old methods of slow freezing? Do you know the principle underlying "magic" powders which, when mixed with water, provide cold for picnics, cooling drinks, and first-aid compresses? With simple apparatus and chemicals, you can demonstrate refrigeration, concoct your own magic cold powders, and explain the efficacy of new freezing methods.

The principle of all so-called mechanical and thermal refrigeration is simple. A liquid that boils or vaporizes at a low temperature is changed into a gas or vapor. In making this change it cools the air or other substance surrounding it by absorbing heat.

Ammonia is the refrigerating fluid, or refrigerant, used in nearly all ice-making plants and large packing houses. For smaller installations, sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide, methyl chloride, and other compounds have certain advantages. For experiments in the home laboratory, sulphur dioxide is probably the easiest refrigerant to make and deal with, as the gas may be liquefied at ordinary atmospheric pressure by merely cooling with an ice-and-salt mixture.

Arrange your apparatus as shown in the photograph. Put a little sodium sulphite in the flask and add water until the sulphite is just covered. By heating this mixture gently, while adding concentrated sulphuric acid to it drop by drop, a steady supply of sulphur dioxide gas will be generated. To



When the cooling tube is removed from the ice and salt, frost forms on it as the liquefied sulphur dioxide is changed back into a gas, absorbing heat



You can make your own "magic sand with a thirst."

Acid mixed into sodium silicate (water glass) forms
a jelly that, when dried properly, is silica gel

free the gas from water vapor, it should be allowed to bubble through the test tube containing concentrated sulphuric acid before passing on to the cooling tube, an ordinary U tube, or one bent as shown in another illustration, packed in a dish of cracked ice mixed with salt. To absorb most of the gas which is not liquefied, the outlet of the cooling tube is connected to a tube imbedded in a jar of silica gel, the "magic sand with a thirst" recently described in POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY.

You can prepare silica gel yourself. Pour slightly diluted sulphuric or hydrochloric acid into a solution of sodium silicate (water glass). Shake or mix as you pour, until the solution has completely changed into a jelly-like mass. Break this up with a glass rod, and wash the mixture with water several times, allowing the insoluble silica gel to settle and pouring off the water above it. After washing, the gel should be thoroughly dried in an evaporating dish or in the stove oven.

Now you are ready to generate and liquefy your sulphur dioxide. Only slight heat should be used, to avoid too violent a reaction. After several minutes, inspect the cooling tube. It should contain a few drops of liquefied sulphur dioxide. As some of the gas is bound to escape in the room, it is best to work near an open window.

When you have made enough liquid sulphur dioxide, turn out the burner, disconnect the ends of the cooling tube, and remove it from the ice mixture. Now rinse it quickly in clean water to remove the salt solution, and hold it for a moment in the air. Instead of getting warmer, the tube gets so cold that frost forms on it! The liquid sulphur dioxide is now boiling away



Boric acid crystals formed slowly (at left) and by rapid crystallization. Quick-freezing keeps foods fresh because it makes small, regular ice crystals that do not appreciably alter the cell structure



Model of thermal cooling system used on many refrigerated railroad cars. Silica gel saturated with sulphur dioxide is heated to drive out the gas, which liquefies when cooled in the other tube

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—changing back into a gas and as long as this goes on, the tube will be cold.

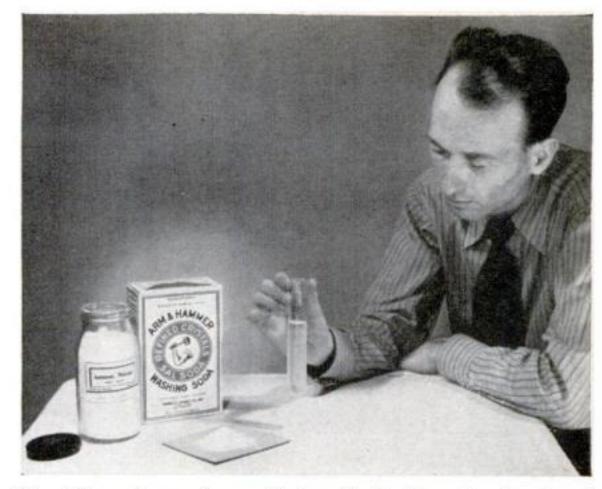
The reaction you observe is exactly that which takes place in the cooling compartment of your refrigerator, regardless of its type.

In mechanical refrigerators, reliquefying is accomplished by compressing the vapor and then cooling it with an air blast or cold water. In thermal machines, the vapor is taken up by water or silica gel. It is then driven out again by heat and liquefied by passing through pipes cooled by air or water.

For another simple experiment, which demonstrates a thermal refrigerating system used widely on refrigerated railroad cars, we use silica gel saturated with sulphur dioxide—which is the

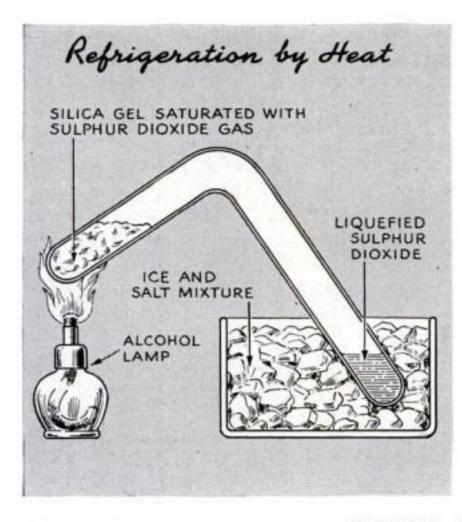
exact combination used on the car systems. The apparatus is constructed from two test tubes, joined as shown, and with their stoppers tied in. To exclude water vapor, the silica gel should be thoroughly dried before it is saturated with the sulphur dioxide gas. Heat drives the gas into the cooling tube where it is liquefied. When allowed to become a gas again, it produces a refrigerating effect.

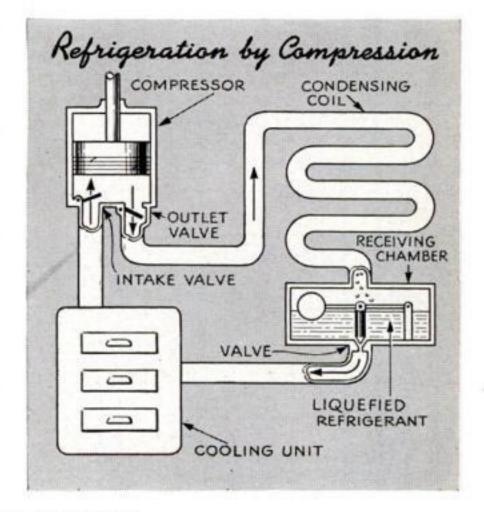
The secret of "quick-freezing" is a matter of crystal formation. Make a saturated solution of boric acid crystals in hot water. Pour half the solution in one test tube, and



"Magic" powders produce cold when dissolved in water. Equal parts of ammonium nitrate and sodium carbonate (washing soda) mixed into a similar amount of water at 50° chills the liquid to about -7°

half in another. Now plunge one tube into cold water, to cool it quickly, and allow the other tube to cool normally in the open air. When both have thoroughly cooled, you will discover that the crystals formed in the tube that was cooled slowly are much larger and less regular than those formed in the tube that was cooled quickly. When foods are frozen quickly, the ice crystals formed are so small that they do not appreciably alter the cell structure of the food. On the other hand, the large crystals formed by slow freezing often mutilate the food and change its character.

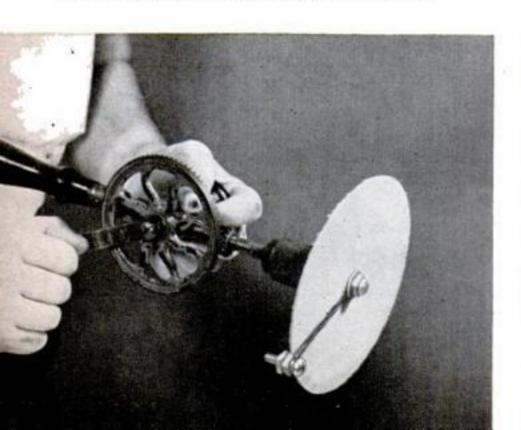






HOW GRAVITY AFFECTS A PENDULUM. At different points on the earth's surface, the pull of gravity is not the same. It is greater near the poles than at the equator, because the polar caps are nearer the center of the earth; and there the increased force of grav-

why we stick to earth. With rubber bands, attach nuts and bolts to the rim of a cardboard disk, and whirl the disk as shown. Suppose the bolts represent people and houses at the equator; the rubber bands, the force of gravity. If you spin the disk fast enough, centrifugal force will overcome gravity, and the bolts will fly off. That is just what would happen to objects at the equator, if the earth turned at comparable speed. Luckily it doesn't. Its plodding pace of little more than 1,000 miles an hour would have to be multiplied about 17 times. Above and below the equator, the earth's slower gait favors gravity even more.



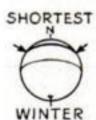
### EASY TESTS SHOW

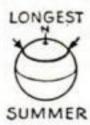
## THIS EARTH

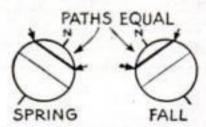
BLIVIOUS to commotions that men make upon its surface, the planet Earth rolls on in its orbit—and mere mortals must submit to the dictates of celestial law. Blackouts lengthen as days grow shorter. General Mud and General Snow, in their seasons, upset mighty

er. To show this, suspend a small piece of iron from a string and place the pole of a strong electromagnet just beneath. Swing the pendulum, first without and then with current in the electromagnet. You will find the pendulum swings faster in the second case, while the magnet is simulating the effect of added force of gravity and increasing the acceleration of the pendulum bob. Of course, for a fair comparison, a pendulum of identical length must be used for each experiment—for the time of swing of a pendulum is normally determined by its length.

WHY DAY'S LENGTH CHANGES. Mark a spot in the United States on a small globe, set up as in photo below. Close one eye, turn the globe, and you will see the mark for less than a half turn. Reverse the stand, and the mark will be visible for more than a half turn. At right angles, it will be seen for just a half turn. In this test, your eye represents the sun; the time you see the mark, the length of day at different seasons.









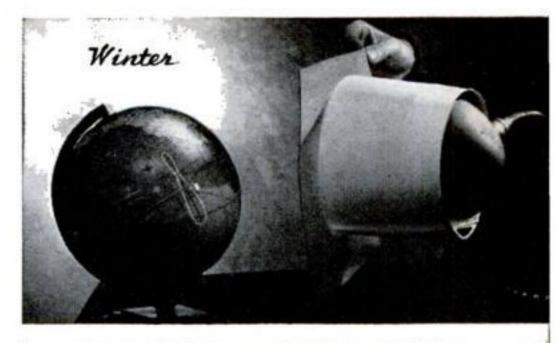
### ODD FACTS ABOUT

# WE LIVE ON

war engines. Weather reports are censored—but no one can suppress the workings of the giant machine on which we live. Here are six illuminating home experiments that show the reasons for seasonal changes and other mysterious habits of our spinning home.

WHY SUN'S HEAT VARIES. When it's summer in North America, the sun has climbed farthest north, and its rays strike northern latitudes squarely. In winter, the sun retreats south of the equator, and its slanting rays "thin out" to spread over a greater northern area, as may be shown with a lamp, a cardboard window, and a globe. That curious little 8-shaped figure on the globe, called an analemma, shows the extremes—23½ degrees north and south—of the sun's overhead travel. It may be seen that our good neighbors in South America are always having exactly the opposite season from our own.

your weight at center of earth. If you could manage to get to the middle of the globe, your weight would dwindle to zero! So long as you're outside, gravity pulls you just one way—down. But a cardboard ring, a washer, and four elastics tell the "inside story." Like the washer, whose rubber bands simulate opposed forces of gravity at the earth's center, you would float freely. Assuming the place filled with air, you could swim in it. If you started up a ladder, surrounding forces eventually would be unbalanced and tend to draw you back, as demonstrated below—but the first part of the climb would be as easy as lifting a feather.





In our winter, the sun's rays strike the Northern Hemisphere slantwise, as in the upper set-up. In summer, they hit squarely and so give more heat

MEASURING HOMEMADE 'QUAKES. To demonstrate the principle of the seismographs that record earthquakes, attach a weight near one end of a long rod, which is pivoted against a stand as shown. It should freely swing sidewise. To the outer end of the rod, fasten a bit of wire to serve as a recording needle. Now start drawing a piece of smoked paper under the needle, at the same time jarring the table slightly. You will obtain a record showing, in wavy lines, the jiggling of the table. The costly instruments of scientific institutions work in much the same way, although of course with much higher precision.





# Superhet for Beginners uses only two tubes

By ARTHUR C. MILLER

Several years ago, a superheterodyne receiver had to consist of at least seven tubes—sometimes nine, for in those days the multiple tubes we use so frequently in our present sets had not been perfected. A two-tube super is possible these days, and one of them is shown on these pages.

A 1A7GT pentagrid tube is used as the first detector and oscillator. A two-gang .00036 condenser tunes these two stages. To insure proper tracking of the oscillator tuning condenser a fixed mica condenser with a capacity of .0004 mfd. is wired in series with the oscillator coil. This condenser must be accurate within +3 percent.

Across the other tuning condenser (in parallel with it) is a low-capacity (.00005 mfd.) midget variable trim-

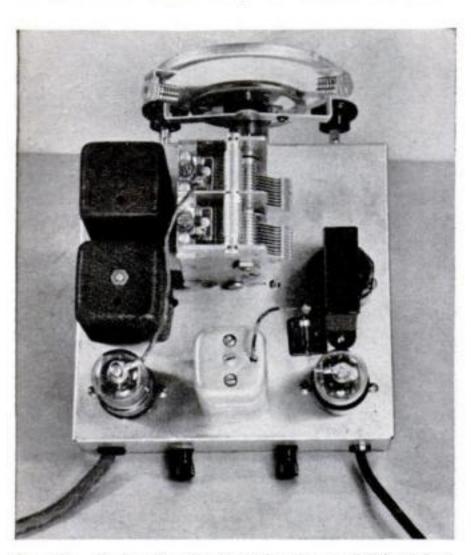
mer condenser. This is adjusted to compensate for any irregularities between the two tuning condensers. It is not necessary to adjust it for each station.

The output of the 1A7GT is coupled to the detector stage through a 456-kc. I. F. transformer (this may be either an iron-

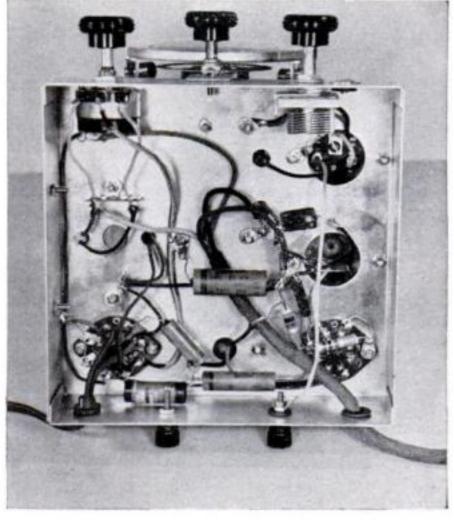


This two-tube superhet gives loudspeaker reception of local stations with a 20-foot antenna laid on the floor

core or air-core type). Both primary and secondary windings of the I. F. transformer are tuned by tiny built-in trimmer condensers which have to be adjusted before the receiver will operate. This may easily be done by tuning in the strongest local signal and turning the two screws on top of the

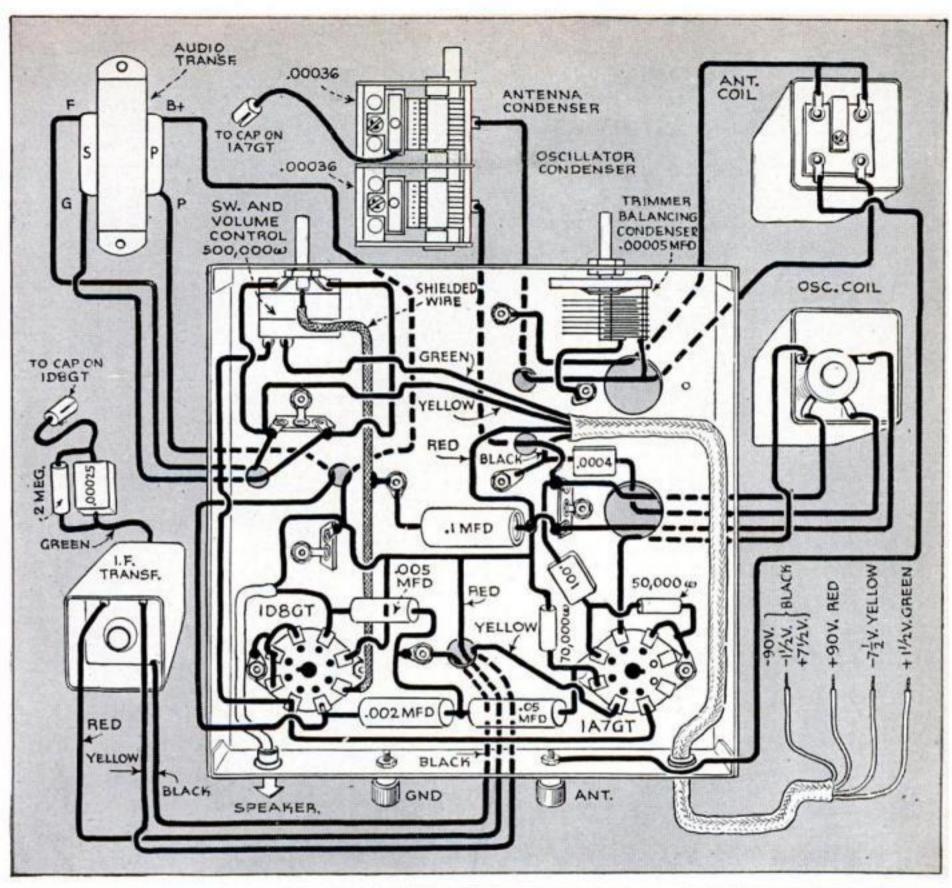


Topside of chassis, showing the two multiple tubes that do the work once performed by seven or more



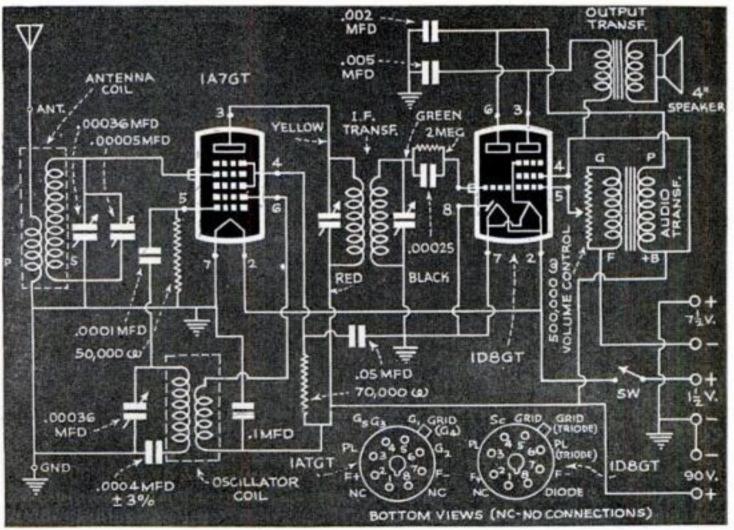
This is the underside of the chassis. The on-andoff switch is operated by the volume-control knob

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As shown in this pictorial diagram, the IA7GT pentagrid tube is used as the first detector and oscillator, with the two-gang tuning condenser

The detector (triode portion of the ID8GT) is transformer-coupled to the power-amplifier pentode of the same tube, as shown at the right



I. F. transformer can with a screw driver, until the signal is at its loudest. Then tune to a weaker station (near 1,500 kc.) and

give it a final adjustment.

The detector (triode portion of the 1D8GT) is transformer-coupled to the poweramplifier pentode of the 1D8GT. Unrectified RF currents in the plate circuit of the detector stage are by-passed to the chassis through a .002-mfd., 400-volt tubular condenser. Volume is controlled by means of the 500,000-ohm variable resistor across the secondary of the audio transformer. The S.P.S.T. on-and-off switch is also controlled by the shaft of the resistor.

Output of the two-tube super is fed into a 4" or 5" permanent-magnet speaker installed in the lid of the gray-wrinkle steel cabinet. A 3%" diameter opening must be drilled for the 4" speaker, and another opening about 4" in diameter in the front

panel for the dial.

Loudspeaker reception of all local stations is possible, using an antenna of only about 20 feet, stretched across the room on the rug. No ground is necessary, although it may improve the volume on weak signals. A small trimmer condenser should be inserted in series with the antenna whenever a long antenna is used with the set.

Although 90 volts is shown in the wiring diagram as the plate or "B" battery voltage this value may be safely increased to 110 or 120 volts with a correspondingly greater signal strength. In this case the "C" battery voltage should be advanced to 9 volts.

#### LIST OF PARTS

Steel chassis, 7" by 7" by 2". Shielded iron-core antenna coil. Shielded air-core oscillator coil. Two-gang tuning condenser, .00036 mfd.

Four-inch round dial.

I. F. transformer, 456 kc. Audio transformer, 3:1 ratio, unshielded.

Output transformer, universal type. PM speaker, 4" or 5". Steel cabinet, 8" by 12" by 8".

Volume control, 500,000 ohms. Switch cover plate, S. P. S. T.

Variable trimmer condenser, .00005 mfd.

Pentagrid converter tube, 1A7GT. Triode-pentode amplifier tube, 1D8GT. Octal (eight-prong) wafer sockets (two).

Mica condensers: .0001 mfd., .00025 mfd., .004 mfd. (padder).

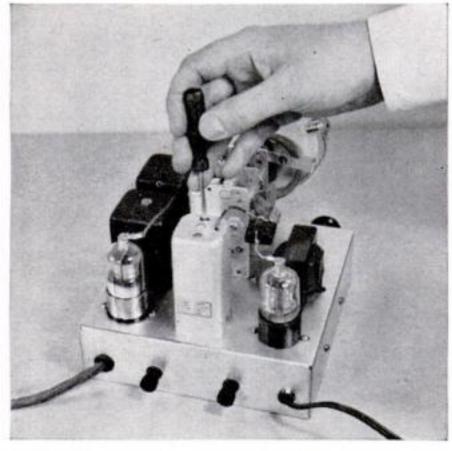
Tubular condensers: 1 mfd., 400 volts; .05 mfd., 400 volts; .005 mfd., 400 volts; .002 mfd., 400 volts.

Carbon resistors: 1/2 watt, 50,000 ohms; ½ watt, 70,000 ohms; ½ watt, 2 megohms.

Knobs, cable, binding posts, etc.

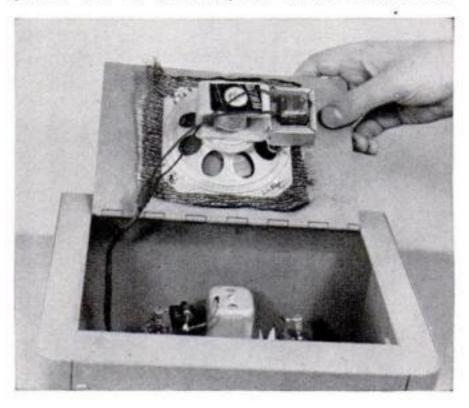


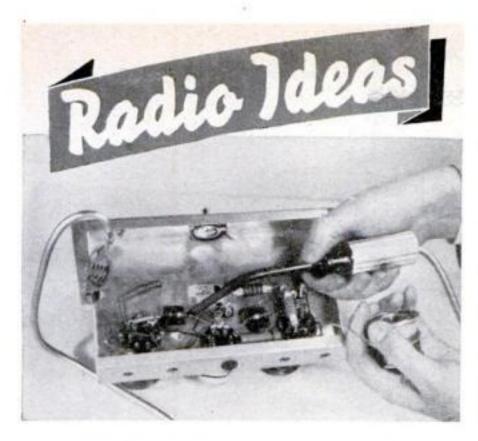
Front of the gray-wrinkle steel cabinet, showing the three control knobs and four-inch round dial



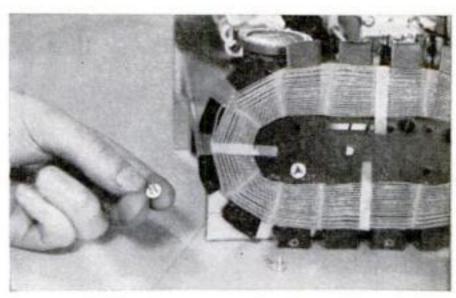
Both primary and secondary windings of the I.F. are tuned by turning the two screws on top of the transformer can until selected signals are loudest

Output is fed into a permanent-magnet loudspeaker (either four or five-inch) set in the cabinet lid

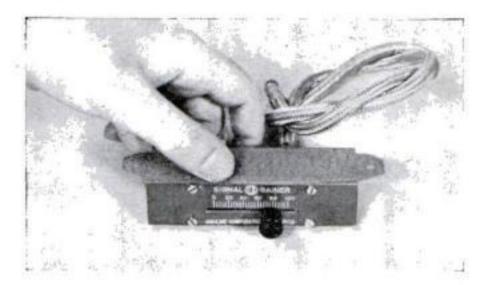




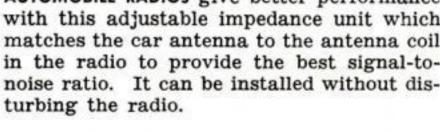
SOLDERING, WELDING OR BRAZING can be done practically anywhere with a new tool designed to operate on 6 or 12 volts, from storage or dry batteries. It draws only 15 amperes.

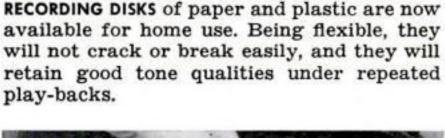


SNAP-IN FASTENERS for use in place of screws in many phases of radio construction work are on the market. They are available in four sizes, and are cadmium-plated to prevent rusting.



AUTOMOBILE RADIOS give better performance with this adjustable impedance unit which matches the car antenna to the antenna coil in the radio to provide the best signal-tonoise ratio. It can be installed without disturbing the radio.





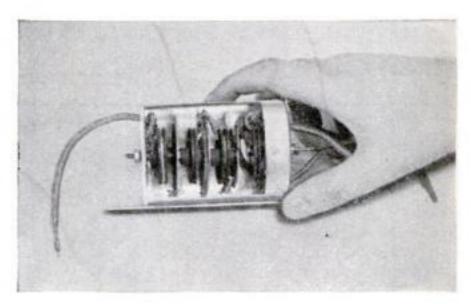




cordings with a new liquid leaves a plastic film on the disk, thus reducing surface noise and lengthening the life of the records in the same operation that cleans them. It is sold in two-ounce bottles.

**ELIMINATING INTERFERENCE** without affecting the efficient operation of the ignition system of a car is the object of the device shown below. It is installed in series with the car antenna.





OCTOBER, 1941



Posing a model in a studio in the commercial department of a large photographic school. The resulting picture, intended for advertising purposes, appears at the right. Good as this work is, the average amateur could equal it if he would only follow the systematic methods used in the schools and master the fundamentals first

### HOW TO

# Raise Yourself Out of the Snapshot Class

By ROBERT WOODMAN

Learn more about his hobby. One of the best ways to do this is to study photo technique step by step just as it is done in all good photographic schools.

Although they say that experience is the best teacher, the axiom is truer if you substitute "guided experience." In photography, for instance, when you make prints by contact or projection, you can use any one of a hundred different papers and have the choice of a score of developers, prepared or formulated. Obviously, you can't try them all, and to make a comparative evaluation would be a research problem in itself. So with other details, from selecting your subject to mounting the finished print.

That is why, at a certain stage in the

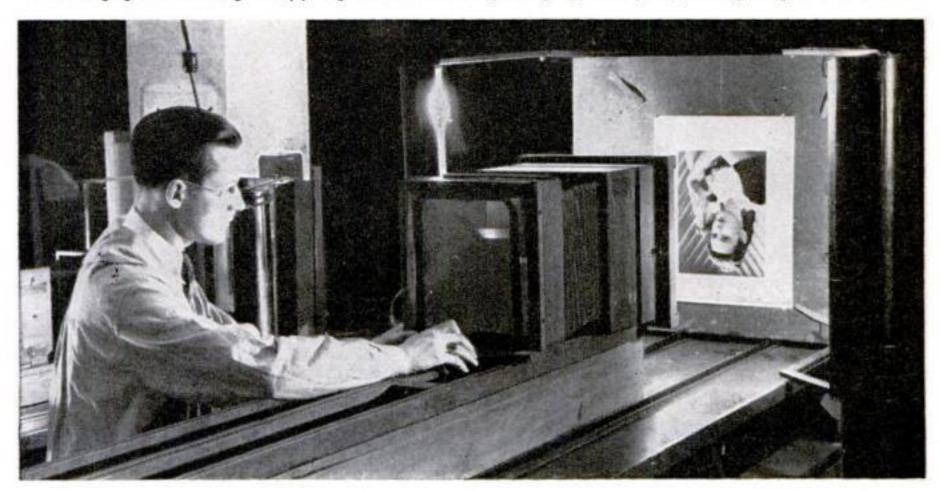
career of many an amateur photographer, a period of discouragement may set in. There's no real need for this. Photography is not so hard. Like any other craft, it's a question of doing the simple things first and building up to the more difficult ones later. Experience is easier to acquire if you begin with a good groundwork.

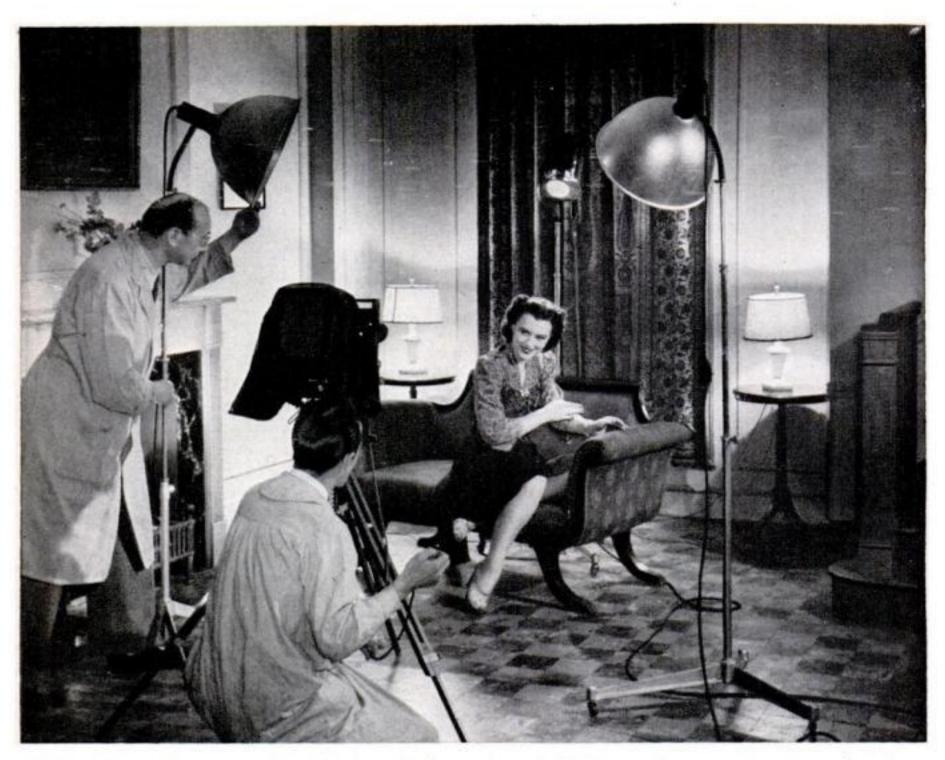
It is on this principle that every successful school of photography is run, and the amateur who wants to build up his knowledge without confusion would do well to follow the methods by which the students of such a school are led forward. This is by ascending from one level to the next only when a firm foundation has already been created for the take-off.

To attend the school itself would be the ideal method of applying this constructive discipline, but not every one of us has this opportunity. However, to impress ourselves with an object lesson for our own private guidance, let's pay a visit to a large school of photography and see if we can't garner a few principles for our own use.

For this purpose, our choice may well be the Ne v York Institute of Photography, of New York City, one of the oldest and best known. It was in this particular school that the accompanying photos were taken. Because of its complete equipment and capable faculty, this school is well adapted to illustrate our purpose. There are other photographic schools, too, from which we can learn how to chart a clear course. We won't confine our discussion to one example, for the really basic methods are common to all good schools. (Continued)

First essential in photography: get a good negative. Just a simple task as the student below is learning, but an all-important one. In any school he must do it perfectly before he is allowed to advance. Here he is engaged in making a copy negative of another photograph . . . plain, flat lighting . . . no stunts





A homelike setting arranged to give practical experience in lighting and composition. Several studios at the New York Institute of Photography, for example, have settings that represent living rooms

An interesting and revealing characteristic of almost every school is its willing acceptance of intelligent beginners with no previous knowledge of photography. In fact, most will assert, in no uncertain terms, that their instructional material is absorbed from the outset with less effort, and with more completeness, by the sheer beginners. Those who may have acquired a superficial knowledge of some of the more advanced phases usually have to "unlearn" a great many things—and that's no fun!—in order to go back and master the fundamentals.

This holds a certain encouragement for the amateur who would build up his own experience in photography. It demonstrates that he can start off pretty well "from scratch" and, by applying the same kind of systematic methods as are used in the schools, advance himself almost to any point.

Most schools start the beginner with practical work, not lectures. The first step generally consists in making a plain photograph of some simple object, with plain lighting. Just the simple task of making a picture from an inanimate object. But a good picture; that's the point. Before the student is allowed to progress beyond his first step, he must make the best possible picture under these primary conditions.

There's our key to good progress, if we only have will enough to apply it. Let's look back and survey our own first attempts in the hobby; they are probably typical.

Did we deliberately choose the simplest possible subject and then keep doggedly at it until we made a perfect photograph? Probably not. Instead, we tackled some such ambitious project as glamorizing the girl friend. No doubt we felt we didn't deserve the coolness which greeted our first prints of this subject, but after that we thought it might be better to essay something like a "salon" landscape. After reading of the effectiveness of a filter to bring out clouds or something, we bought one and tried it out. But maybe we had the wrong factor, or didn't use the right exposure, because again the result was disappointing.

After a few more haphazard tries with ambitious subjects, we fell back on the expedient of carrying our camera around with us all the time and snapping indiscriminately in the hope that, after all, something might turn out to be a good picture. But... did we ever say once, "I've floundered around long enough. Now I'll go right back to the beginning, set myself a photographic task and keep at it until I am thoroughly satisfied with results!"?

Yet, this is the way the schools begin, and it is the way they ultimately turn out graduates who make solid names in the profession. Of course, there is a friendly instructor always at your elbow to guide you, but the student has to do the work.

Good photographic quality in the rendition of a plain photographic subject should come first. Don't make any mistake about that. The New York Institute, for instance, lets the beginner make a simple copy negative—a photograph of a line drawing or of another print. Flat lighting . . . no stunts or poses . . . but excellent training. It concentrates attention on the primary care needed to make a good negative.

"But how about that friendly instructor at my elbow?" you will say.

True. That's why schools are better. But you can, if you wish, take a home-study or extension course, or you can follow these methods by yourself and, if you get stuck, refer to textbooks. The principal film manufacturers issue excellent manuals. Then, if you have will power enough to avoid the temptation of trying to imitate "glamour photographs" and trick manipulations, you'll find yourself doing nicely.

Even the owner of the simplest equipment can practice the step-by-step method to good advantage. As an example, select an outdoor scene which has no deep shadows in combination with glaring, sunlit surfaces—a scene where the tonal values do not show great contrasts between light and dark. Such a scene is well within the "brightness range" that can be printed on normal photographic printing paper without special manipulation. Such a scene could be taken outdoors under a bright north sky, with no direct sunlight falling on the subject.

Perhaps this will come as a surprise. "What, no direct sunlight? I won't have enough light!" Never fear. You will already have lost your beginner's status when you discover that, with the fast films available, you can take excellent pictures without direct sunlight, even with a slower lens. Here we are avoiding direct sunlight because the surfaces on which it falls will be so much brighter in contrast with the shadows, and we are seeking evenness of tone as far as possible. And let's not include too much sky because so much more light comes from the sky than from foreground objects.

Again the precept of the photographic school: choose some inanimate object for the first attempt. A living subject is apt to distract the attention, become impatient, and the tendency is to get it over in a hurry. Inanimate subjects are not uninteresting; many salon successes show that. A well-made picture of the architecture of a doorway may prove really worth while for its rendition of textures and details.

But it isn't our purpose here to give specific instruction in photography. The first step has been outlined in some detail to show how experience can be made to serve its most use-

The temperature of the water may be kept constant with this automatic equipment found in the photo-chemical laboratories of an up-to-the-minute photographic school

Retouching is thoroughly taught. Here an instructor is showing a student how to retouch a negative on an illuminated desk





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PHOTOGRAPHY



The exhibitions of students' work continuously held by the larger schools are well worth visiting. The print quality is invariably excellent, and this in itself is an indication that it pays to follow a thorough, well-planned course of study

ful purpose in following the simple, step-bystep method that is the basis of all formal instruction.

Having made sure that he has chosen a simple subject and has paid careful attention to the fundamentals, the amateur can then proceed to the operations which make these results visible—developing the negative and printing. There is apt to be less distraction in this, and it becomes easier to concentrate on what should become routine.

Luckily, system in developing is easy to apply, as the simple time-and-temperature method can be used with complete effective-ness. For this purpose, it is best to avoid the temptations offered for magic results by the use of the many mystic brews and pet formulas that come to one's attention. Standard, ready-mixed developers (powder or liquid) are available which, if used according to instructions, give dependable results.

The next step, as advanced in all schools, is to study the negative and, on the basis of this inspection, to decide which grade of printing paper can bring out its qualities best. The simple subject, already chosen,

should produce a negative which makes this inspection simple. Thus, the amateur can first familiarize himself with the operation of printing the image on a paper of normal contrast.

Paper developers are made up just as simply as negative developers. Patience, and a resolve not to attempt too much at once, will show the amateur how to print so that development takes place in the optimum time of a minute and a half or so. Shortstop and fixing baths are simple; so is washing, but these operations can't be hurried.

Don't be tempted to use all sorts of different materials if success is not immediate with one. Keep firmly to the mastery of one operation at a time. It pays.

Now, having learned how to follow through with a simple subject, you are in a position to return to the making of other pictures with more authority.

The school, of course, has equipment, studios, and darkrooms for the best application of these methods. For instance, the New York Institute has air-conditioned darkrooms, specially equipped for panchromatic negative development, print development, and contact printing and enlarging. It has nine studios where students may photograph anything from miniatures to

large groups of people. There are rows of illuminated retouching desks.

In this, as in others worthy of the name, there is always a current print show of students' best work, both in the graduate and undergraduate categories. These prints are a continuous indication of the school's effectiveness and are worth visits of inspection. The Rabinovitch and Clarence White schools in New York City, for example, also usually have interesting shows of this kind.

We have concerned ourselves with those operations which have to do with acquiring the fundamentals of photography. Naturally, schools go farther. We haven't gone into the details applied in many advanced steps, such as lighting, composition, portraiture, color-separation work, and the like. But we may be sure that a knowledge of all these advanced operations is gained by exactly the same step-by-step methods.

By all means visit a photographic school if you can. Even if you can't enroll, you can profit by the methods used and resolve to school yourself by mastering the fundamentals, one at a time.

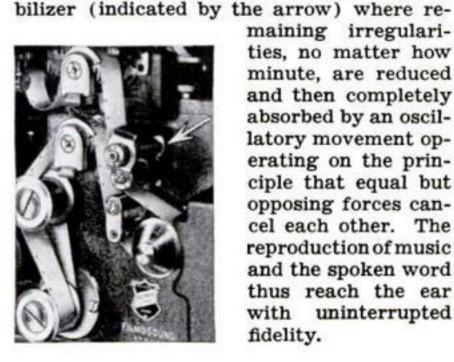
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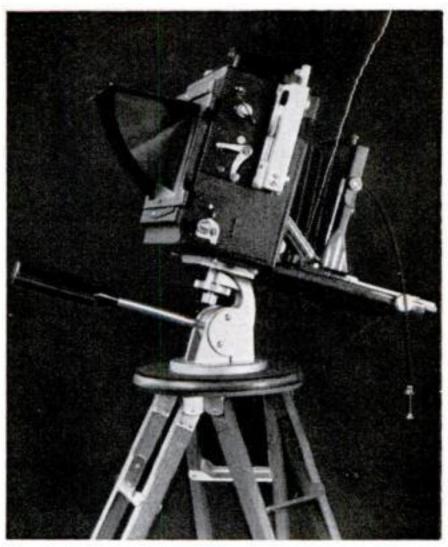
A COMPACT PAN-TILT TRIPOD HEAD, which tilts 100 deg. forward or 250 deg. backward and rotates a full 360 deg., has been introduced for use with both still cameras and amateur movie cameras. The rotating and tilting movements are controlled and locked by a single handle, and the head is so designed that it may be half-locked with sufficient looseness to permit minor adjustments to be easily made.



ALL AUDIBLE TRACES OF "FLUTTER" in sound movies are said to be eliminated by a new device known as an "oscillatory stabilizer." Its purpose is to isolate the stop-and-go film movements from the sound drum so that no variations in film speed ever reach the scanning beam. As the film leaves the usual second sprocket, it passes through the sta-



maining irregularities, no matter how minute, are reduced and then completely absorbed by an oscillatory movement operating on the principle that equal but opposing forces cancel each other. The reproduction of music and the spoken word thus reach the ear with uninterrupted fidelity.



CONTROL FOR FORTY FLASH BULBS. Uniform firing in synchronism either with a synchronizer or by open-and-shut flash is obtained with a multiflash control unit (left) that will accommodate from one to forty flash bulbs. It operates on house current or two 45-volt radio "B" batteries. A push button and rubber cord allow operation by remote control, and a neon tester (the neon bulb goes out if there is a break) permits a complete line and firing check at a glance. The unit is  $7\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " by 4" and weighs  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lb.



TO ENLARGE the size of the field covered, the wide-angle lens attachment illustrated above can be screwed on top of a number of standard movie lenses. The focal length is changed from the usual 13 mm. to 1/4", but the speed is unaffected, and movies may be taken under the same light conditions as previously. With this attachment it is possible to cover a much wider field of view, as is often desirable when taking interiors, theater stages, tall buildings, and the like.



Self-portraits can be taken with this new camera, so simple is its operation. A frame of the right size is attached, and notches on its rod make all the adjustments

Just below, front view of camera shows light reflector and opening through which picture is snapped. Below that, view from rear. At bottom, diagram of complete unit

### Automatic Color Camera

Taking color photographs is an automatic and foolproof operation with a camera invented by Dr. Gustav Bucky, of New York, an X-ray expert and discoverer of the Grenz rays (X-rays of low penetrating power). Designed as a single unit, the camera is especially suitable for medical work because of its unique lighting system, which permits the illumination of cavities. It is equally efficient for other types of close-ups, and can be used for portraits or even full figures, such as fashion poses.

Focusing and shutter controls are automatically adjusted by attaching one of several frames to the camera. Each frame is a different size and is supported by a notched rod, which is inserted in the front of the camera and sets the adjustments.

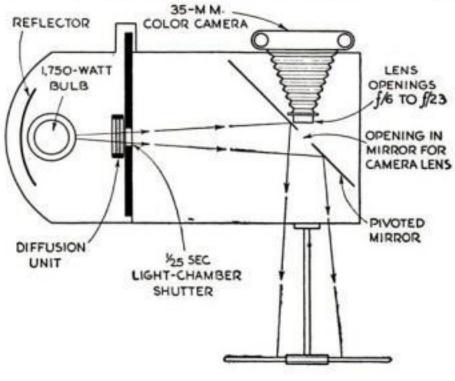
The frame, when placed against the subject to be photographed, accomplishes five purposes: It establishes the distance between lens and subject; centers the subject; focuses the camera by adjusting the distance between film and lens; opens or closes the diaphragm to obtain the necessary depth of focus; and sets a mirror at the correct angle to reflect the light properly.

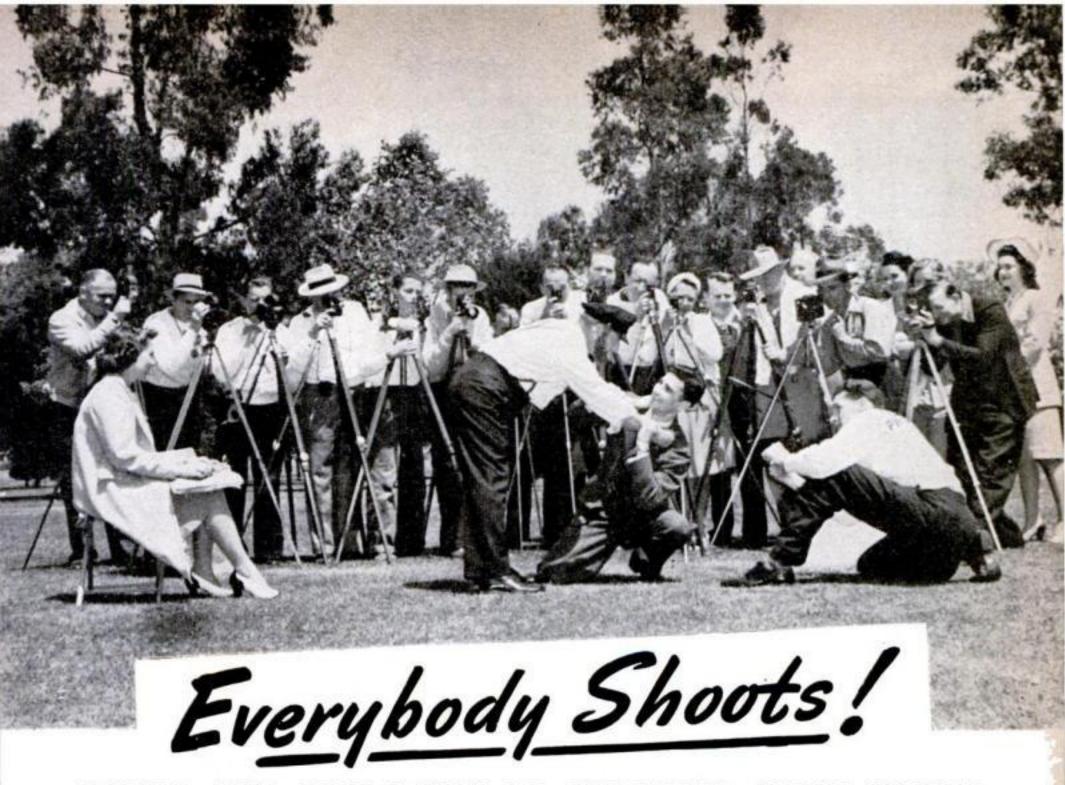
A special color-corrected projector type bulb of 1,750 watts, housed inside the unit, gives a 1/25-second flash through a separate shutter, which is tripped each time the regular shutter opens. The lamp turns on and off automatically, and is said to be good for 2,000 exposures.

Made of aluminum, the unit weighs 10 lb. It plugs into A.C or D.C. of from 110 to 130 volts.—ARTHUR C. MILLER.









### CINEMA CLUB POINTS WAY TO SUCCESSFUL MOVIE MAKING

### By ANDREW R. BOONE

TO THE average amateur movie maker, shooting a dramatic continuity with real actors and actresses "on location" seems a rosy but impossible dream. For the fifty working members of the Long Beach, Calif., Cinema Club, it is very much a reality, and

the magic wird that has made it so is "cooperation."

By working together, these homemovie enthusiasts produce features running as long as 1,000' in 16-mm. film, obtain the use of special locations, the services of competent players, and have the advantage of technical planning and assistance. Yet, thanks to the method of working, individuality of expression is preserved, beginners are helped by the

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more experienced, and all have an equal opportunity to do good work.

Club activities began modestly about three years ago when seven cameras filmed 23 scenes of a short one-reeler. There were four in the cast, including a dummy, and all the action took place around a park bench. Since then, the club has made six

#### TEN SHOOTING TIPS FROM THE LONG BEACH CINEMA CLUB

- Long and semi-long shots should run 8 to 15 seconds. They help introduce the subject and definitely locate the action.
- 2. Medium shots should run 5 to 12 seconds, and include something besides the characters.
- Moderate close-ups, showing characters full or three-quarter length, should run 5 to 8 seconds.
- 4. Close-ups should show the head, or head and shoulders, and run 2 to 5 seconds.
- 5. Study each scene through the finder. Avoid uninteresting foreground and blank sky.
- Vary the shooting angles, but avoid exaggeration.
- 7. Never pan or tilt unless necessary. Make shots from different places rather than long pans or tilts.
- Keep the camera and the water line in seascapes level. Don't shoot horizons at the center of pictures.
- 9. Hold the camera rock steady—on a tripod if possible.

10. Be sure before you shoot!

long features, besides a number of shorts. An 800' film, "Susanna," was so successful members voted for still longer pictures.

The latest of these, "Happy Landing," includes 97 scenes shot on seven locations, and is 1,000' long. Reflectors. make-up materials, and props were supplied by the club. Members started work at nine o'clock on eight successive Sundays. Those who had missed a day or spoiled a scene shot retakes on the ninth Sunday. Seventeen cameras filmed this picture, exposing more than 30,000' of film.

All the members are encouraged to work behind the camera, shooting and editing their own film versions of the story.

"We aim," explains President Mildred J. Caldwell, "to make good pictures, using all types of locations. Only by working together, with as many cameras as possible on the firing line, can we get enthusiasm within our own club and the coöperation of other individuals and organizations."

There is ample evidence that the club succeeds in its purpose. For one production, a chief of police furnished two motor patrolmen and closed a street to be used as a location. A telegraph company supplied two uniformed messengers with motor "scooters." On another occasion a hotel manager gave the club the exclusive use of a roof garden for interior shots and as a vantage point from which to take long shots of battleships at anchor. The management of a popular amusement pier closed it to the public while for five hours club members roamed about on it, getting shots of their romantic lead characters amid the barkers and colorful booths.

Besides cameramen, the club boasts amateur directors, actors, property men, and script writers. Club officers and technical advisers take pains to see that new members turn out satisfactory pictures. The club's success has established a definite trend toward longer films such as "Happy Landing."

As a first step in undertaking a new picture, prizes may be offered for stories. A script committee of five will select one of the entries and write the shooting script, of which copies are supplied to all who wish to take part in the production. Word is sent to local "little theater" groups, to dancing schools and other sources of acting talent. Occasionally a want "ad" is run, calling for volunteer players.

Meanwhile a location manager scouts for likely spots, and a property man rounds up props. Candidates for the acting roles are interviewed and filmed with both 16- and 8-mm. cameras. These film tests are then viewed at a regular club meeting, and the cast is selected by popular vote.

The time for actual shooting now draws near. Clarence N. Aldrich, a Long Beach architect and officer of the club, plans the day's work for both the actors and the technical crew. He plots a schematic diagram showing the progressive action of each scene, the entrance, action, and exit of all characters, and camera angles.

Shortly after eight o'clock on the morning of the appointed day, the cast and Director Ray Fosholdt, who doubles as make-up artist, meet on location. For an hour Fosholdt works with pancake make-up and false whiskers, deftly putting his subjects "in character." By nine o'clock, the cameramen begin to arrive.

Each receives a number. When cramped for space, half the cameras shoot at one time, the scene being played twice. For long shots, cameramen stand in a line; for medium shots, they shift to a semicircle. Often as many as 23 cameras are trained on outdoor scenes. On extreme close-ups only two may be able to shoot from the desired angle, and the scene is reënacted ten times or more until all who wish have filmed it.

Individuals shoot much as they please. Member Harry Ward, Jr., for example, pre-



Shooting with two cameras on the same tripod. One has a ½" lens, the other I", so that medium-long shots and close-ups can be taken simultaneously



Fitted to this cameraman's lens mount is a special fade attachment which will permit him, by merely pushing a plunger, to fade in or out on the scene

fers to use two cameras mounted on a single tripod. With a ½" lens in one and a 1" lens in the other, he photographs medium-long shots and close-ups simultaneously. Lynn Harshbarger fades scenes in and out with an attachment fitted to his lens mount. For close-ups, Harold O'Neal fits to his camera a long, light board with two wire frames. This gives him his focus and shows instantly just how much area the lens will cover at the predetermined distance. The same device is used for shooting titles by daylight.

Cameramen select the material for their own shots. One may omit a scene altogether, another subdue straight action in favor of comedy. Eventually each edits and cuts his own film, and adds his own titles. When all are ready, the pictures are shown at evening meetings, and special awards are given for the best ones.

"It is strange how many different scene versions result," comments Miss Caldwell. "No two members see the story from exactly the same viewpoint."

When not making a picture, the club meets twice monthly, once to review films made by members or by outsiders, and once for technical discussions. At the latter, the practical side of movie making is covered by qualified speakers, and often a member shows a picture that he has made alone and without help. This picture must proceed from a logical beginning to a satisfactory ending, and must be complete with titles. The producer is quizzed on his work, and if he makes an exceptionally high score, he

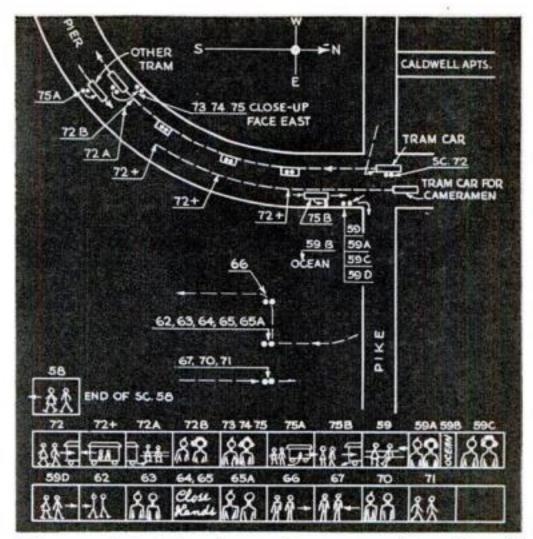


Diagram plotted in advance shows progressive action of scenes and camera angles. Each cameraman works with one

may become a technical advisor in the club.

"Knowing what your camera will do and how to use it," says Aldrich, who was the club's second president, "is more important than owning expensive equipment. A tripod is essential for steady screening. Consult your light meter before each shot."

Usually the conclusion of a picture is shot first, and the earlier scenes taken afterwards. "We're all anxious to see how the picture will end," explains LaNelle Fosholdt, one of the authors of "Happy Landing," "and by shooting in this way we get a better idea of filming the beginning."



This titling device—a wire frame on a wooden track—is also used when shifting rapidly from close-up to extreme close-up. Camera is hand held



Making up on location is begun an hour before the cameramen arrive. Here the director puts whiskers on an actor to get him in character for his part

#### Chipped Enamel Trays Repaired with New Plastic Resin Glue



No MATTER how carefully they are handled, enamel photographic trays become chipped in time. It is important to touch up the damaged places promptly so as to protect the exposed metal and prevent contamination of developing solutions. An easy way to do this is to coat the spots with one of the new plastic resin glues. Mix the adhesive with water and apply it with the end of a pipe cleaner or a small brush. The cement sets in a few hours, is proof against chemicals, and seems to wear indefinitely.—K. M.

## Cloth Strip Prevents Fogging of Film-Pack Negatives

FOGGING of parts of film-pack negatives can be eliminated by cutting a strip of black velvet or thin felt so that it will fit inside the back of the film-pack adapter and project for about ½". Attach it with glue or cellulose cement. Each time a tab of the film pack is pulled out, press the edge of the black strip against the tab with the other hand. This will prevent fogging, even if the operation is done in bright light.—E. A. B.

A HAIR dryer is useful for blowing dust from cameras, film holders, and accessories. If the heating element is turned on, it can also be used to dry a damp camera.



#### Small Markers for Photo Slides Punched from Gummed Labels

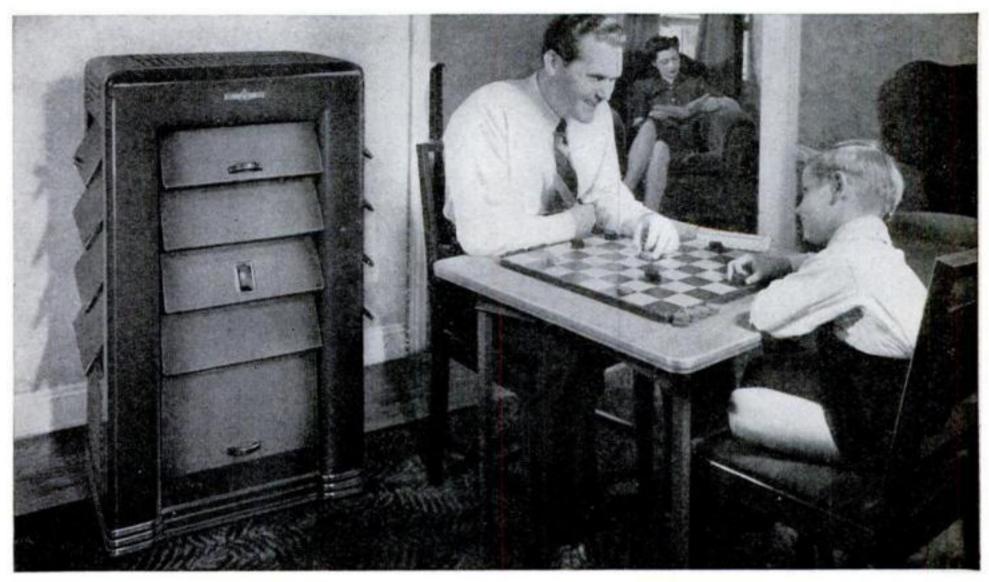


A punch is used for making markers to be stuck on the slides

THUMB markers small enough to use on 2" by 2" projection slides are difficult to obtain, but excellent ones are easily cut from common gummed labels with the aid of a ten-cent paper punch. The markers are stuck in the upper right corner of the slides when in the proper position for projection. They may be numbered to keep a series of slides in correct sequence, and markers may be cut from variously colored labels to identify different sets of slides. When it is desired to turn out these markers in quantity, several sheets of the labels are stacked together so that they can be punched at one time.—C. E. B.

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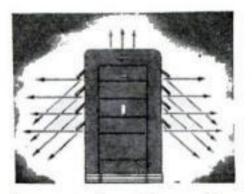




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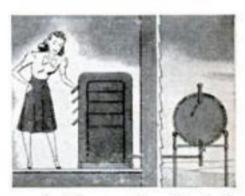
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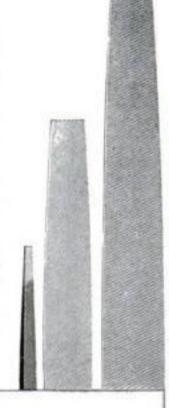
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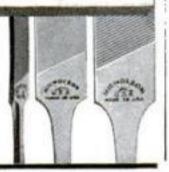
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#### Gus Clears the Way

(Continued from page 136)

Bill still seemed doubtful. "Look at it this way," Gus said. "After a charge of gas and air has done its job of driving down a piston, the burned gases have to go somewhere, don't they? What I call exhaust service clears the way for those burned gases to get out into the open air—with the least possible resistance—where they can't do any harm."

"All right," Bill gave in, "you've converted me. But unless a muffler is so nearly clogged up that there isn't any exhaust coming through it, how can you tell whether there is anything wrong with the exhaust system?"

Gus got off the bench. "I'll show you how," he said. He walked over to a car and examined its muffler. "This looks O.K.," he said. "Now I'll show you how to find out whether it is O.K. Just raise the car about two feet on the hoist, will you?"

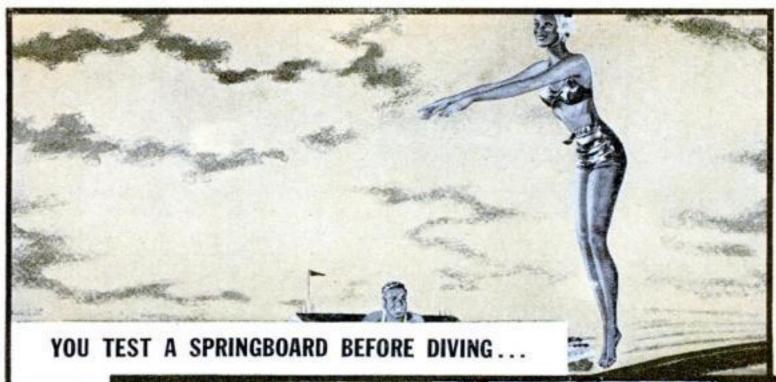
He went over to his workbench, and in a few minutes came back with a length of small rubber hose over his arm and a tapered wood plug in one hand and a can of light oil in the other. He tried the plug in the tail pipe and found that it fitted snugly. Then he showed Bill that it had a V-shaped cut a half inch deep extending its full depth. Going around to the front end of the car he disconnected the windshield wiper and then attached one end of a rubber tube to the intake manifold and dropped the other end in the can of oil.

"Start her up," he told Bill, "and then come down here with me."

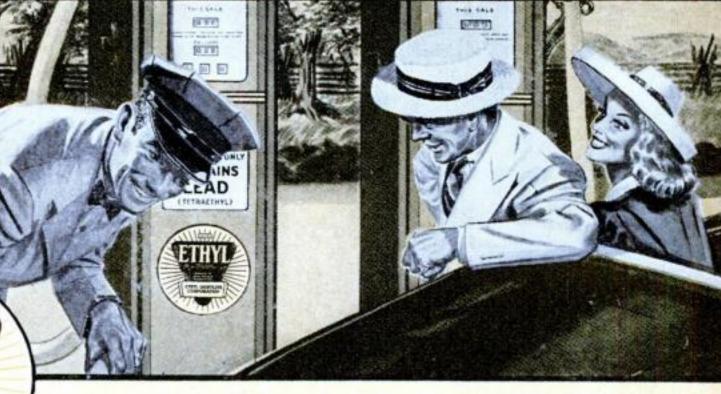
Bill did as he was told. After a few seconds smoke began to float out from under the car's body. They got down on the floor to see where it was coming from. "It's the flange connection between the exhaust manifold and the exhaust pipe," Gus said. "Probably just needs tightening. . . That's a sure-fire check, Bill. If there is no smoke, the exhaust system is O.K. If there is smoke, you know that the part of the exhaust system it is coming from has gone bad."

"You've got something there," Bill said. "Say, maybe most of the cars that come in here should get that test."

"No 'maybe' about it," Gus told him. "I haven't any doubt that more than half of them need exhaust service. But I've never had much luck in convincing car owners that keeping the way clear for the exhaust to get out is important. Perhaps you'll have better luck. If you do, you'll save some of our customers both grief and money."







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## TOUGH ON OIL-PUMPING GENTLE ON CYLINDER WALLS

Oil-pumping is the red signal that warns "Your motor needs attention—don't delay." The longer you put it off—the more it costs. For oil-pumping usually means rapid cylinder wear has started—and that leads to a long trail of trouble and expense.

Play it safe. At the first sign of oil-pumping, get Hastings Steel-Vent Piston Rings. They stop oil-pumping and check costly cylinder wear. Any good mechanic can install them quickly and economically.

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#### How Planes Fight at Night

(Continued from page 88)

diet which is particularly high in vitamin A and carotene content, then the men are given periodic injections of vitamins A and D. The next phase involves having the flyers and gunners spend periods of time in darkened rooms. During the time that they are on duty, waiting in their quarters to go aloft, the men wear dark-green goggles similar to those worn by welders, except that they have a tight-fitting rubber mask to cut off light from the sides or bottom.

When the signal for the take-off comes through from operations, their eyes are predisposed to the darkness outside. Within a moment or two, the airmen's vision thresholds are fully lowered, their night sight at its best. Deprived of this adjustment, they would dash out of a brightly lighted room onto the necessarily blackedout field and would be able to see little if anything, unless the moon happened to be very bright. Even if they were able to take off safely, their night vision would not be at its best for approximately 30 minutes. This time element is vital, considering that the pilots can take off and climb to 10,000 feet in about ten minutes and, in all probability, make contact with the enemy within another five or ten minutes. The retina, which is equivalent to the film in a camera, does most of the adjusting, and this part of the eye is dotted with tiny receptors called "rods" and "cones." A quantity of pigment known as "visual purple" is present in the rods, and this may be compared to the emulsion on the camera film.

The first stage of adaptation requires about ten minutes, during which time cone threshold is lowering and you lose color perception. Then the rods take over, and during this second stage it takes them 20 minutes longer, just three times as long as the cones, to complete their function. Now objects appear a vague misty gray in color and indeterminate in size and shape; night vision is in effect.

Reproduction of the visual-purple substance on the retina has been found to be in direct proportion to the amount of Vitamin A in the system. This substance is essential to successful dark adaptation. Diet thus becomes of increasing importance in the conditioning of flying personnel.

Dr. Selig Hecht of Columbia University, Dr. H. De Silva of Yale, Col. A. D. Tuttle of United Airlines, and Dr. W. R. Miles of the National Research Council are working in close coöperation with the aviation medi-

(Continued on page 222)



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Every time a Delta worker pre-loads a ball bearing as shown in this photograph, he uses instruments so delicate that he can equalize variations in bearing "play" too minute for human senses to detect!

This man knows that the unseen precision which he puts into every Delta metal and wood-working machine—whether it's "pre-loading" ball bearings, "diamond boring", "precision grinding" or "dynamic balancing"—is but one reason for the amazing efficiency of Delta tools.

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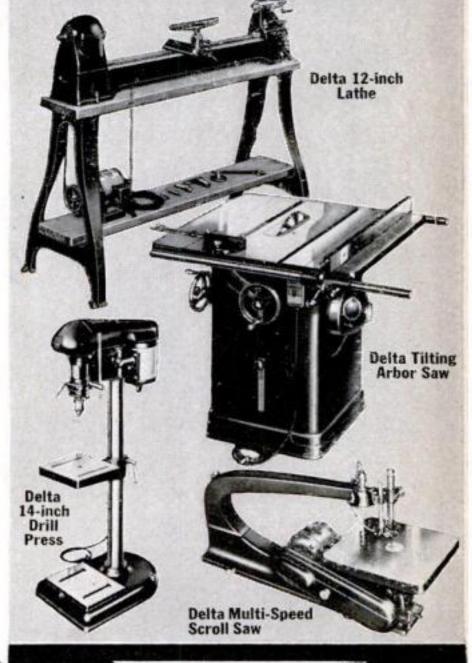
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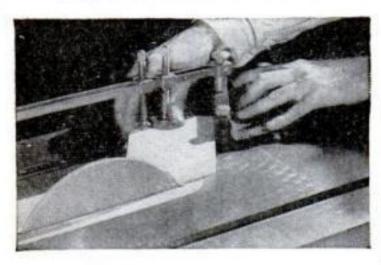
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### How Planes Fight at Night

(Continued from page 220)

cine departments of our Air Corps and Naval Air Service on night-vision research.

Last, but far from least in this battle against the night bomber, is the problem of employing suitable types of aircraft for these "cat-eyed" men to fly. Generally speaking, the same characteristics are desirable in night craft that make for efficient daytime fighters and interceptors: speed, maneuverability, fast rate of climb, high ceiling, heavy fire power, ease of maintenance, and safe landing and take-off characteristics. Nighttime combat, however, is mostly a hit-and-run affair, and there is not so much close-in fighting and violent maneuvering as in daylight scraps. The main requisites are armament to shoot quickly, and in quantity, at the suddenly looming enemy, and good landing behavior.

Tactical use of these craft involves sending the long-range convoy-type fighters over enemy territory to carry out "watch-andwait" strategy while holding the fastclimbing interceptor types for immediate engagements. The fighters hover enemy air bases at high altitudes, then swoop down to nail the enemy bombers as they come home to roost. This is excellent strategy in that the bomber crews are pretty well unnerved, as well as being just about out of fuel and ammunition, after braving the interceptors and AA fire. It is natural for them to breathe a sigh of relief as their airdromes slide into view, and the psychological let-down comes when the longrange fighters appear out of nowhere.

Our newly formed Air Corps Interceptor Command is to be supplied with several modified types of planes for night operations. Long-range types could conceivably be the 458 m.p.h. Lockheed P-38E and the 420 m.p.h. Grumman P-50A. A sterling array of smaller pursuit-interceptors includes the Bell P-39C "Airacobra," Curtiss P-42 and P-46, Republic P-43 "Lancer," P-47B "Thunderbolt," and the North American P-51 "Apache." These ships are the finest of their types in the world, and we may rest assured that the American air chieftains know, perhaps better than any of their contemporaries on this troubled globe, the answer to the riddle of the night bomber.—JAMES L. H. PECK.

Question Bee Answers-Page 72

1. b 2. c 3. c 4. b 5. c 6. a 7. b 8. b 9. a 10. b



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can be used on gun, as shown, with shooter throwing his own targets, or on separate Hand Trap Frame.

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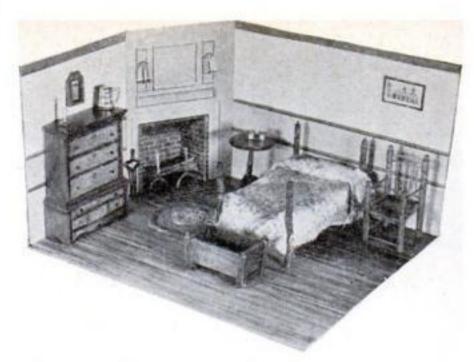
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VACATION days over, the craftsman will be eager to return to the workshop. Are you, perhaps, wondering what to make next? The following partial list of POPULAR SCIENCE blueprints may include just the thing you've had in mind all along, or it may offer several acceptable suggestions that have not yet occurred to you.

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h.p.; can also be rowed, 344-345-R	.75
Inboard Boat, 15' long, for motors from ½ to 5 h.p.; can also be rowed, 384-385-R	.75
(Continued on page 226)	



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#### Plans for Tested Projects

(Continued from page 225)

(Continued from page 225)	
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1- to 16-h.p. outboard motors, 363-R Midget Boat or Pram, 9' long, weighs 75 lb., for	.50
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use with outboard or inboard drives, 147-R Same, 141/2' long, 148-R	.56
Same, 16' long, 149-R	.50
Same, 16' long, 149-R.  Plywood Dinghy, 9' 7" long, weighs 60 to 75 lb.; can be rowed, sailed, or used with small out-	
board motor, 387-388-R	.75
board motor, 261-262-R	.75
board motor, 261-262-R	1.00
Runabout, 15' 6" long, weighs 550 lb., can be used with outboard or inboard motors of from 1 to 60 h.p., 175-176-177-R	
from 1 to 60 h.p., 175-176-177-R Sailboat, 12' long, weighs 200 lb.; has fast skim-	1.00
ming-dish hull, 314-R	.50
Sectional Rowboat, 9' 8" long, two sections, weighs 60 lb., all-wood construction; can be	
used with small outboard motor, 340-341-R	.75
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Clipper Ship SEA WITCH, 91/2" hull, 219	.25
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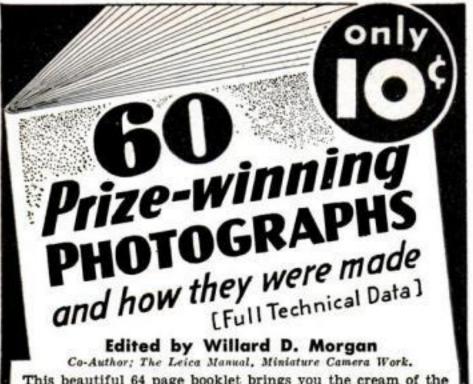
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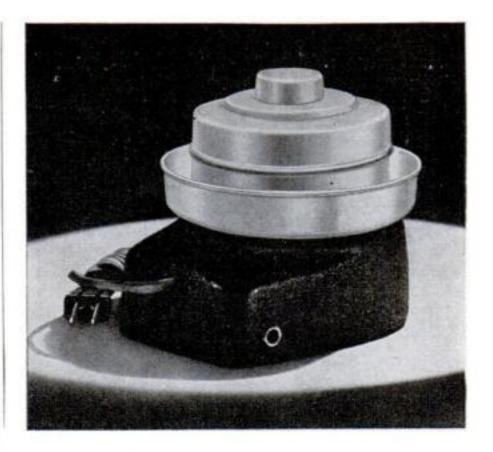


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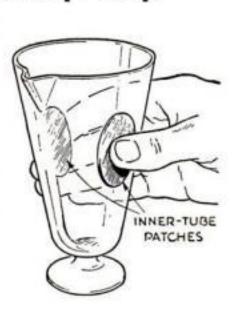


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ADEQUATE agitation is important in developing films, but difficult to obtain except with expensive apparatus. This relatively low-priced electric agitator, however, is said to give the desired intermittent motion to any developing tank of 2 qt. capacity or less. The motion, being nondirectional and parallel to the plane of rotation, changes the circulation every 1½ seconds and brings fresh developer in contact with the film.

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To insure against accidentally dropping a glass graduate when your fingers are wet or greasy, attach two small rubber inner tube patches to the glass with cement. These grips also provide finger protection when hot fluids are being mixed.



#### **Cutting and Folding Cardboard**

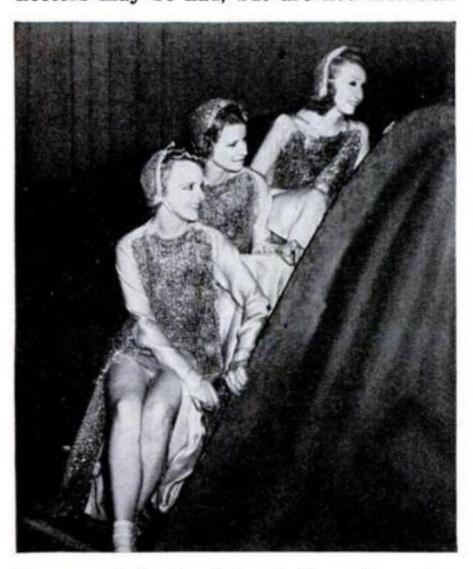
To Make a shipping carton smaller or cut heavy cardboard, try using a knife with a serrated edge. If cardboard is to be given a sharp bend, it should first be scored on a straight line inside the bend with a blunt object such as a knife handle. For thick material, two scores about 1/8" apart are required.—H. N. Toftoy.

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#### Infra-Red Flash Bulbs Take Blackout Photographs

THE growing interest among photographers in taking so-called "blackout" photos (see P.S.M., Sept. '41, p. '208) has resulted in the development of a special flash bulb designed for the purpose. It is a hydronalium wire-filled flash bulb coated with a black infra-red filter. This coating serves to hold back the visible light produced by the flash, but transmits the infra-red rays. It is necessary, of course, to use infra-red sensitive film in the camera. Special reflectors may be had, but are not essential.



Dancers relaxing in darkened stage wings. One blackout lamp 12' from camera; 1/50 sec., f/4.5



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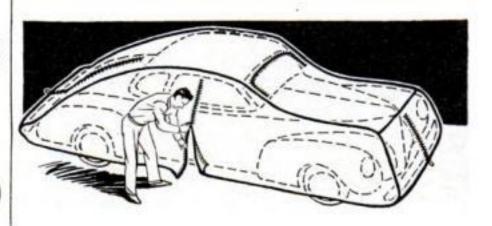
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### With the Inventors

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extended, a housewife may use them for shelling peas, peeling potatoes, and a whole variety of other tasks that call for a place to put something to work on and a second place for the finished work. The small, circular tables fold out of the way beneath the chair seat after use. Spring plates keep the tables steady while ex-

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(Continued on page 233)

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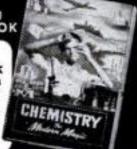
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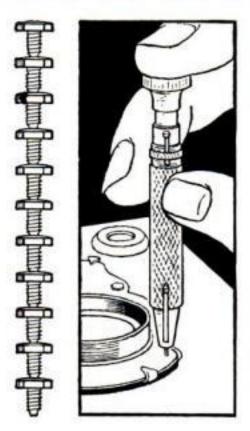
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#### With the Inventors

(Continued from page 230)

screws easily broken apart, and a magazine screw driver for inserting them, have been devised by Miller R. Hutchison, Jr., of Rochester, N. Y. His method is called especially useful for driving quantities of extremely fine screws like those used in

camera shutters and watches. Hitherto it has taken considerable skill to seat such a screw firmly enough so that it will not come loose, without exerting too much pressure and stripping the thread. In this inventor's scheme. however, the breakable necks between screws will automatically shear off when just the right ten-



sion has been reached. Convenient lengths of screw sticks contain from 20 to 50 screws apiece. As one screw is broken off, the next one slides into place at the tip of the screw driver, making for handy and rapid application. . . . IF YOU BELIEVE you have an invention of value to national defense, the place to send it is the National Inventors Council, Washington, D. C. Or, if you are applying for a patent, it will automatically be considered for its possible military merits. . . . SETTING A TABLE becomes easy for a child, with knives, forks, and spoons that can hardly be put down at the wrong side of the plate. Handles are designed with straight edges facing the inside, or with one-sided ornamentation



such as inwardly curving lines, so that they form a symmetrical design when properly arranged. Decorative as well as practical, the invention has been assigned to a leading (Continued on page 234)



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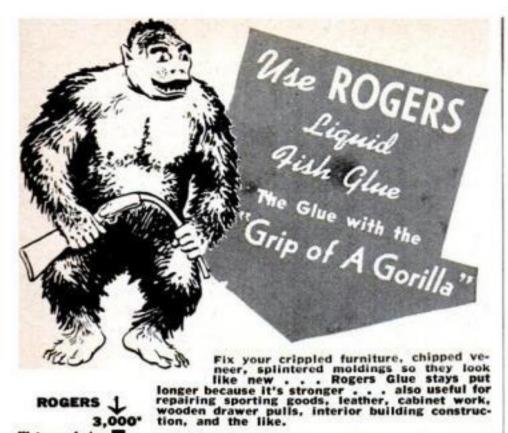
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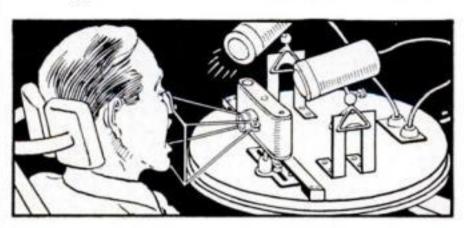
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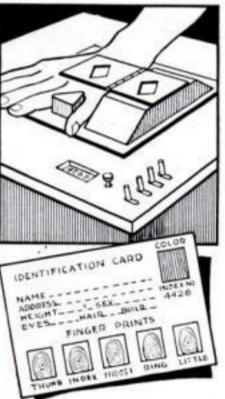
#### With the Inventors

(Continued from page 233)

American maker of silverware by Marion C. Vonderheid, of Long Lake, Wis. . . . A CAMERA FOR DENTISTS, quickly swung into position for use, affords a ready means to photograph the teeth or bone structure of a patient. At his leisure, the dentist



may then study an enlargement of the picture, and make detailed plans for the kind and amount of work needed, without having to rely on memory or elaborate measurements. As designed by William F. Upton of San Anselmo, Calif., the camera and a pair of lamps are mounted as a unit on a standard dental bracket table. A wire frame with a loop for the nose serves as a guide in bringing the camera into focus, and assures that pictures made from time to time will be similarly centered for comparison. A sliding base mounts a universal joint for adjusting the camera. . . . WHAT COLOR IS YOUR SKIN? Grading it with the utmost precision is the object of a "color analyzer" devised by John F. Wilson of



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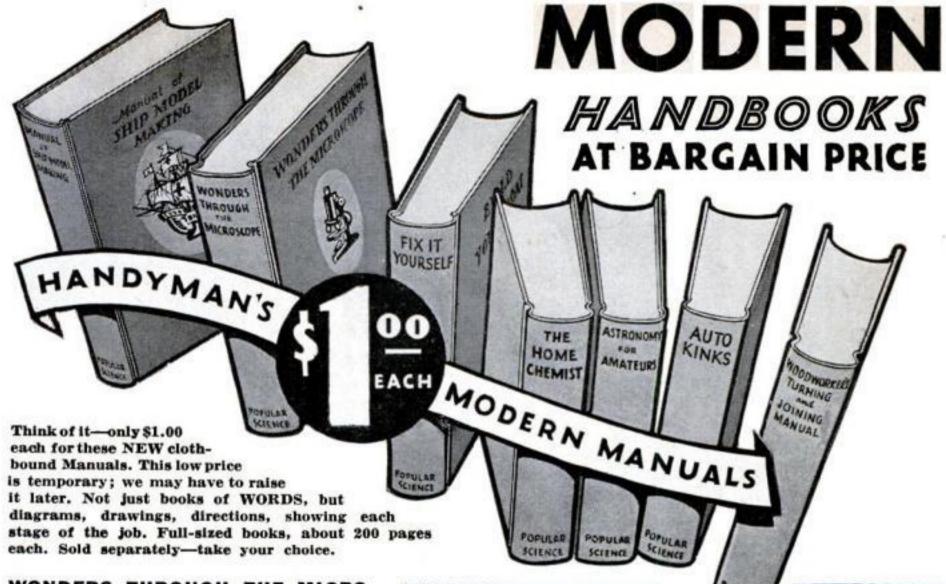
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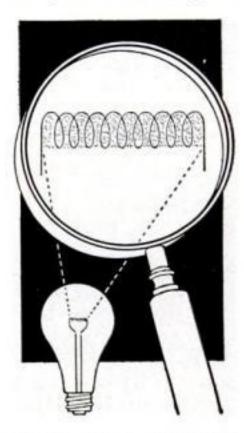
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#### With the Inventors

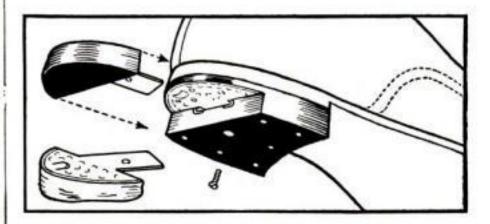
(Continued from page 234)

exactly match. Each frame of the movie film is numbered, and the corresponding number is recorded on the identification card. According to the inventor, "black," "white," and equally broad classifications now in use offer scant aid, since as many as

1,000 gradations of skin color may be found in persons of either Caucasian, Negro, Mongolian, or Malayan race. . . . MANTLES ELECTRIC FOR LAMP BULBS have been patented by Anton Kratky of New York. Like gas mantles, they employ rare earth elements, and their incandescence provides added illumination. More im-



portant in the inventor's view, however, they provide a support for the coiled filament, preventing its loops from sagging together and causing a short circuit. In addition, the filament may be heated to a higher temperature than normal, giving a marked increase in the brilliance of the light. For making the mantle, experiments have indicated the best material to be thorium oxide. . . . WORN-DOWN RUBBER HEELS become as good as new, with a replaceable wearing surface originated by Frederick A. W. Kelley of Pawtucket, R. I. The most wear, he observed, usually took place at the outer rear edge of the heel. Therefore he designed a heel in which this part was detachable, while the rest was permanent. By



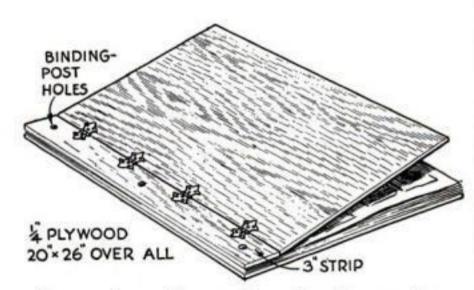
extracting a small screw at the center, the run-down portion is freed and may be discarded. A new section is then inserted, as shown in the diagram, and the screw is replaced.

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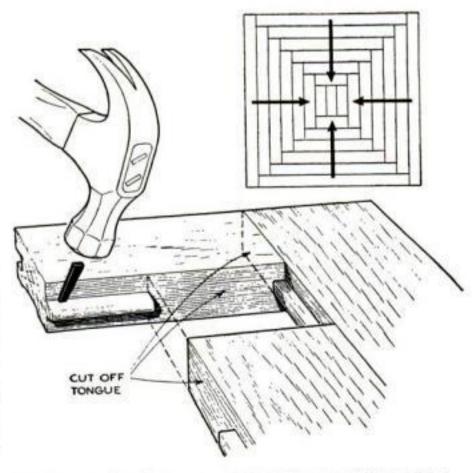
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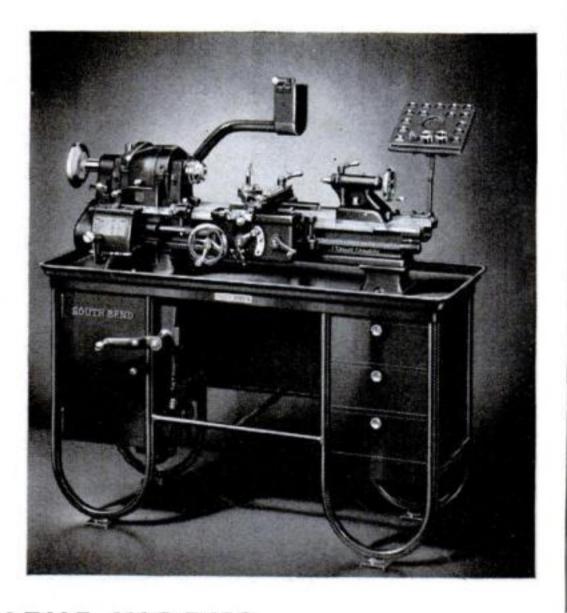
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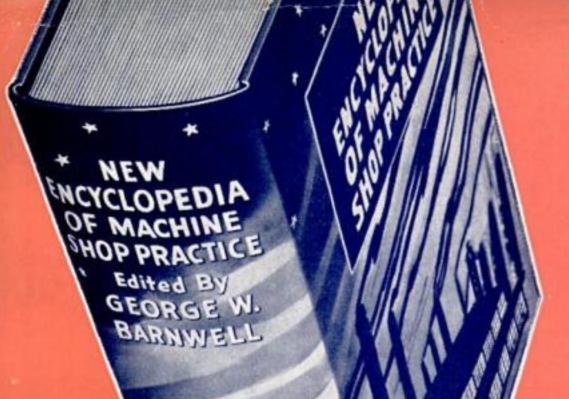
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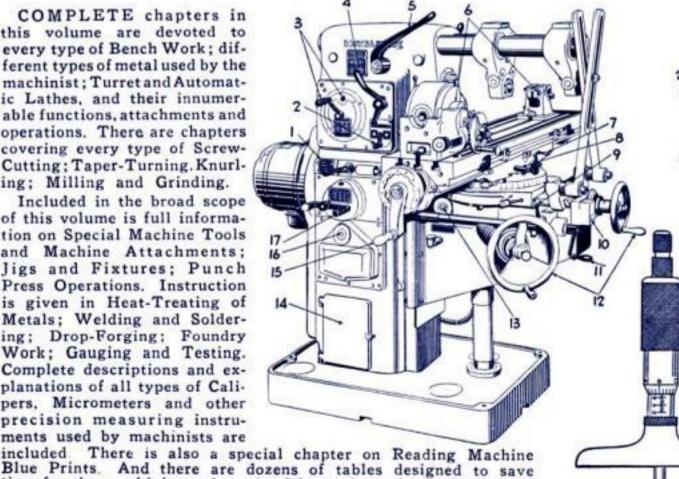
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